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GOING OUT ON A HIGH NOTE

Bobby Cox Ends His Career
With A Win And A Wild Card

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S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		25 MIN 7:00	26 MIN 12:00	31 WAS	1 WAS	2 WAS
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10 PHI	11	12 FLA	13 FLA	14 FLA	15 NYM	16 NYM
17 NYM	18 LAD	19 LAD	20 LAD	21 LAD	22 SF	23 SF
24 SF	25 SD	26 SD	27 SD	28	29 STL	30 STL

JUNE

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1 SD 7:00	2	3 NYM	4 NYM
5 NYM	6	7 FLA	8 FLA	9 FLA	10 HOU	11 HOU
12 HOU	13 HOU	14 NYM	15 NYM	16 NYM	17 TEX	18 TEX
19 TEX	20 TOR	21 TOR	22 TOR	23	24 SD	25 SD
26 SD	27 SEA	28 SEA	29 SEA	30		

AUGUST

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1 WAS	2 WAS	3 WAS	4	5 NYM	6 NYM
7 NYM	8 FLA	9 FLA	10 FLA	11	12 CHC 7:30	13 CHC 7:00
14 CHC	15 SF	16 SF	17 SF	18 SF	19 ARZ	20 ARZ
21 ARZ	22 CHC	23 CHC	24 CHC	25 CHC	26 NYM	27 NYM
28 NYM	29	30 WAS 7:00	31 WAS 7:00			

MAY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1 STL 1:30	2 MIL 7:00	3 MIL 7:00	4 MIL 7:00	5 MIL 7:00	6 PHI	7 PHI
8 PHI	9	10 WAS	11 WAS	12 WAS	13 PHI	14 PHI
15 PHI	16 HOU	17 HOU	18 ARZ	19 ARZ	20 LAA	21 LAA
22 LAA	23	24 PIT	25 PIT	26	27 CIN	28 CIN
29 CIN	30 SD	31 SD				

JULY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1 BAL 7:30	2 BAL 7:00
3 BAL	4 COL	5 COL	6 COL	7 COL	8 PHI	9 PHI
10 PHI	11	12	13	14	15 WAS 7:30	16 WAS 7:00
17 WAS	18 COL	19 COL	20 COL	21 COL	22 CIN	23 CIN
24 CIN	25 PIT	26 PIT	27 PIT	28 PIT	29 FLA	30 FLA
31 FLA 1:30						

SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1 WAS 7:00	2 LAD 7:10	3 LAD 7:00
4 LAD	5 PHI	6 PHI	7 PHI	8	9 STL	10 STL
11 STL	12 FLA	13 FLA	14 FLA	15	16 NYM	17 NYM
18 NYM	19 FLA	20 FLA	21 FLA	22	23 WAS	24 WAS
25 WAS	26 PHI	27 PHI	28 PHI	29	30	

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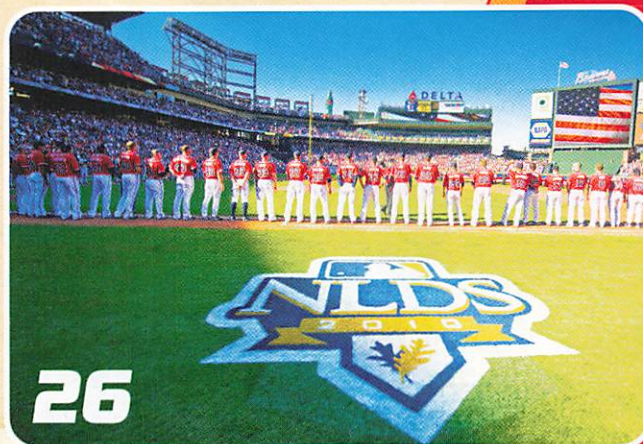
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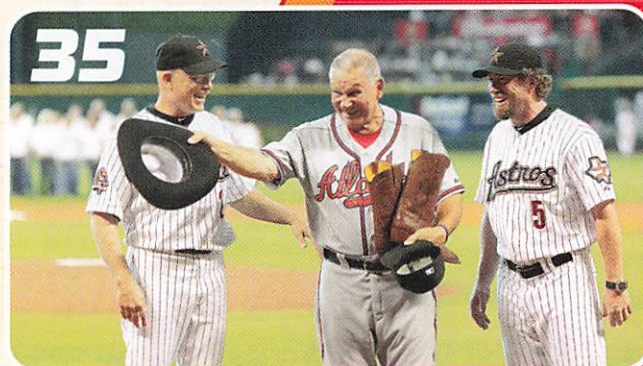
Constant String Of Major Injuries Followed Team
From April Into Playoffs By Mark Bowman Of MLB.com



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POUYA DIANAT/ATLANTA BRAVES



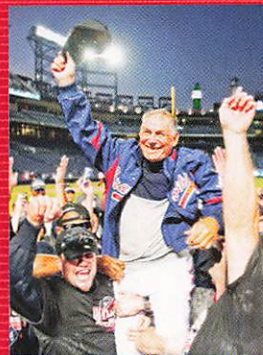
HOUSTON ASTROS

COVER CREDITS

BOBBY COX
by Pouya Dianat/
Atlanta Braves

Fredi Gonzalez:
Pouya Dianat/
Atlanta Braves

Design by Clark Odom



BATTING ORDER

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VOLUME 6, NUMBER 11

CHOPTALK USPS Periodicals Publication 022-732; ISSN 1555-1547 is published monthly for \$37.95 per year (\$56.95 Canada and Mexico; \$76.95 other international; payment in U.S. dollars only) by Wonderdog Publishing, Inc. Copyright 2010 with all rights reserved. Reproduction or use, without permission, of any content, in whole or part - in any manner - is prohibited. Office of publication is located at 12829 Trinity Dr., Stafford, Tex. 77477-4214. Visit Braves.com/ChopTalk. E-mail Letters@ChopTalkonline.com. This is the Official Monthly Magazine of the Atlanta Braves. Single copy price is \$4.99. Periodical postage paid at Stafford, Tex., and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Please send address changes and returns to: ChopTalk, P.O. Box 81247, Conyers, Ga. 30013-9247.

ChopTalk

THE OFFICIAL MONTHLY MAGAZINE
OF THE ATLANTA BRAVES

BOBBY COX POSTER!

This 20 1/2" x 16 1/4" Image of Bobby Cox Was Created By
Acclaimed Artist Steve Penley Especially for ChopTalk, And The
Original Painting Was Presented To Cox Sept. 29 At Turner Field.



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GOING OUT ON A HIGH NOTE

Bobby Cox Ends His Career With A Win And A Wild Card Playoff Berth

BY PATTY RASMUSSEN

Surrounded by reporters in the dugout for the last time prior to a regular season game, Bobby Cox was asked if it felt as though the season had flown by.

"It feels like my whole career has flown by," he answered without missing a beat. "It's a blur. I've had a lot of fun this year. We led the division for 99 days. Winning makes things go quickly."

Hollywood script writers couldn't have devised a better storyline to Cox's regular season finale, a meaningful game at Turner Field against the division rival Philadelphia Phillies. On the line was a shot at extending the season in the playoffs as the National League Wild Card.

Tim Hudson (17-9), later named the National League Comeback Player of the Year, was the Braves' starting pitcher, but catcher Brian McCann and rookie right-fielder Jason Heyward were the only two players from Atlanta's Opening Day lineup to start the last game. The rest of the team was patched together with late trade acquisitions and bench players filling in for injured starters.

Nevertheless, by the end of nine innings, the Braves delivered an 8-7 victory to Cox in front of 52,613 fans. And in true 2010 Braves fashion, the win didn't come without its share of dramatics.

In the eighth inning, with the Braves leading 8-4, reliever Jonny Venters replaced Hudson. After the first two outs were quickly recorded, the inning unraveled. Jimmy Rollins singled to left-center field and advanced to third when pinch-hitter Mike Sweeney reached on a fielding error by Omar Infante.

With Phillies runners on the corners, Cox replaced Venters with closer Billy Wagner who gave up a single to Wilson Valdez, scoring the Phillies pinch-runner at third, and moving Sweeney to second. The next Phillie at the plate was pinch-hitter Ben

Francisco, who doubled to left-center field, scoring two more runs to make it 8-7.

Wagner intentionally walked Jayson Werth and then ended the inning by striking out Raul Ibanez.

The Braves didn't score in the bottom of the eighth. Then Cox, known for his fierce loyalty, once again gave the task of closing the game to Wagner.

"It was important for me to push my emotions to the side," said Wagner, sitting at his locker after the game. "I prayed the whole time I was out there, 'Lord have mercy! Please let this come through.' You try to relax, but it's tough. You're not relaxed. You've got every negative thought in the world going on, and you're trying to push that to the back, trying to think positive things. When I went out there for the ninth inning, there was a calm that came over me."

Wagner attacked the hitters, striking out the side. Game over. Braves win. But that was just part one. Now the team had to wait for the outcome of the game in San Francisco between the Giants and the San Diego Padres to determine whether they clinched the wild card or would have to play a playoff game.

The players shook hands and gave high-



PHOTOGRAPH BY PATTY RASMUSSEN



fives while the crowd went nuts. As was his custom, Cox walked onto the field to congratulate his players. All four umpires made a beeline for Cox to shake hands and offer their good wishes on his retirement. Finally, Cox shook Wagner's hand, and Wagner gave Cox the game ball.

"He didn't want to take the ball, but I made him because he deserved it," said Wagner, who also is retiring at the end of the season.

"He's shown confidence in me every day I've been here. It's been fun to play for him and compete for him. I know that if I had screwed that (game) up, he would have spoken nothing but highly of me. Not many people do that."

Not many people are like Cox, who began the day clearly less harried than he was the day before when the Braves honored him with Bobby Cox Tribute Day. In fact, Cox was spotted walking through the clubhouse around 10:15 a.m., carrying a plate of breakfast, just like usual. Thirty minutes later, he sat in his small office off the dugout, taping the Bobby Cox Show for the radio broadcast, talking with reporters, and finally emerging to sit on the dugout bench to watch batting practice. Had it not been for the increased number of television crews and reporters, it would have seemed like any other Sunday day game.

As he had been all season long, Cox was relaxed. He joked that he had to be shown the way to the 755 Club to attend the tribute night after party the night before, because he still didn't know how to get there from the clubhouse. He said that he moved Brooks Conrad to start at second base rather than third because he didn't think Conrad had slept in two days (following errors), and he kept his attention on potential playoff scenarios and pitching rotation possibilities.

Cox sat down for a television interview with Fox Sports South broadcaster Jerome Jurenovich then had a quick chat with Phillies general manager, Ruben Amaro Jr., son of one of Cox's former Yankees teammates, Ruben Amaro.

Just before the game, Cox joined Braves GM Frank Wren on the field for a presentation honoring him for his 2,500th win (Sept. 25 at Washington). He received a crystal baseball on a pedestal to add to his bulging trophy case.

After tipping his cap to the appreciative crowd, Cox clapped his hands and headed into the dugout for the game. When he emerged in the eighth inning to bring in Wagner, the crowd chanted, "Bob-by! Bob-



Rookies and veterans alike joined in the clubhouse celebration, including (L-R) Freddie Freeman, Eric Hinske, Tim Hudson, David Ross (partially obscured) and Kris Medlen (profile).

by!" That enthusiasm wasn't lost on the manager.

"People have really come out," he said in a post-game interview. "They really packed this place three days in a row, and we thank all the fans."

But the evening wasn't over yet. Cox and his coaches enjoyed post-game cigars in the manager's office while they watched the Giants and Padres battle it out. It was tense.

"I'm way more relaxed watching a game in the dugout than I am watching it on TV," said the 69-year-old Cox. "I was arguing with the umpire on every pitch!"

Meanwhile, close to a thousand fans remained in the stands behind the Braves' dugout to watch the West Coast game unfold on the big screen to see how Atlanta's playoff situation would be impacted. They were rewarded two hours later when San Francisco beat San Diego, 3-0, clinching the NL West and eliminating the Padres from the wild card race. The Braves' clubhouse erupted in cheers and champagne corks popped. Then the players ran onto the field to share the celebration with the fans that remained.

Cox and his wife, Pam, joined the players on the field, and were happily drenched by champagne spray. The players gathered around Cox and hoisted him on their shoulders to the delight of everyone watching.

"I've never seen him enjoy anything as much as this," said Chipper Jones. "He's been this way all year, and it's been great to see."

Cox was all smiles as he spoke the media and, as usual, gave all the credit to his players. "I'm so proud of this team - you have no idea," he said. "We've gone through a lot. To get 91 wins is pretty darn good."

Wagner, who came close to blowing the save earlier, was grateful to be part of Cox's last season and his final regular season victory.

"It's fun to compete with that guy, because he believes in you with all his heart," said Wagner. "To be able to walk off the field after winning his last regular season game and hand him the ball was the greatest thing. The only thing better than that would be handing him the World Series ball after winning that. That would be the greatest accomplishment of my career."

BOBBY COX | #6

WINNINGEST MANAGER IN BRAVES FRANCHISE HISTORY

25 SEASONS AS BRAVES MANAGER: 1978-81, 1990-2010.

MANAGER OF THE YEAR

Baseball Writers: 1985 (Toronto), '91, 2004, '05.

Sporting News: 1985 (Toronto), '91, '93, '99, 2002, '03, '04, '05.

WORLD SERIES CHAMPIONSHIP (1)

1995

NATIONAL LEAGUE PENNANTS (5)

1991, '92, '95, '96, '99

DIVISION TITLES (15+)

1985 (Toronto), '91, '92, '93, '95, '96, '97, '98, '99, 2000, '01, '02, '03, '04, '05

NATIONAL LEAGUE WILD CARD (1)

2010

+ 15 Straight Division Titles In Complete Seasons As Manager.

MOST CAREER WINS BY A MANAGER

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Connie Mack* | 3,731 (53 Years) |
| 2. John McGraw* | 2,763 (33 Years) |
| 3. Tony LaRussa | 2,638 (32 Years) |
| 4. Bobby Cox | 2,504 (29 Years) |
| 5. Joe Torre | 2,326 (29 Years) |

MOST CAREER WINS OVER .500

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. John McGraw* | 815 (2,763-1,948) |
| 2. Joe McCarthy* | 792 (2,125-1,333) |
| 3. Bobby Cox | 503 (2,504-2,001) |
| 4. Walter Alston* | 427 (2,040-1,613) |

MOST SEASONS OF 100 WINS

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| T-1. Bobby Cox | 6 |
| Joe McCarthy* | 6 |
| T-3 Connie Mack* | 5 |
| Earl Weaver* | 5 |

MOST CONSECUTIVE WINNING SEASONS

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| 1. Joe McCarthy* | 20 |
| 2. Sparky Anderson* | 17 |
| T-3. Bobby Cox | 15 |
| Al Lopez | 15 |
| Earl Weaver* | 15 |

MOST POST-SEASON WINS

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------|
| 1. Joe Torre | 84 |
| 2. Bobby Cox | 67 |
| 3. Tony LaRussa | 59 |

* Hall Of Fame

COX'S MANAGERIAL RECORD

YEAR	CLUB/LEAGUE	W-L	PCT.	FINISH
1971	Ft. Lauderdale/FSL	71-70	.504	4th
1972	West Haven/Eastern	84-56	.600	1st
1973	Syracuse/Internat'l	76-70	.521	3rd
1974	Syracuse/Internat'l	74-70	.514	2nd
1975	Syracuse/Internat'l	72-64	.529	3rd
1976	Syracuse/Internat'l	82-57	.590	2nd
1978	Atlanta/NL	69-93	.426	6th
1979	Atlanta/NL	66-94	.413	6th
1980	Atlanta/NL	81-80	.503	4th
1981	Atlanta/NL	50-56	.472	5th
1982	Toronto/AL	78-84	.481	T-6th
1983	Toronto/AL	89-73	.549	4th
1984	Toronto/AL	89-73	.549	2nd
1985	Toronto/AL	99-62	.615	1st
1990*	Atlanta/NL	40-57	.412	6th
1991	Atlanta/NL	94-68	.580	1st
1992	Atlanta/NL	98-64	.605	1st
1993	Atlanta/NL	104-58	.642	1st
1994	Atlanta/NL	68-46	.586	2nd
1995	Atlanta/NL	90-54	.625	1st
1996	Atlanta/NL	96-66	.593	1st
1997	Atlanta/NL	101-61	.623	1st
1998	Atlanta/NL	106-56	.654	1st
1999	Atlanta/NL	103-59	.636	1st
2000	Atlanta/NL	95-67	.586	1st
2001	Atlanta/NL	88-74	.543	1st
2002	Atlanta/NL	101-59	.631	1st
2003	Atlanta/NL	101-61	.623	1st
2004	Atlanta/NL	96-66	.593	1st
2005	Atlanta/NL	90-72	.556	1st
2006	Atlanta/NL	79-83	.488	3rd
2007	Atlanta/NL	84-78	.519	3rd
2008	Atlanta/NL	72-90	.444	4th
2009	Atlanta/NL	86-76	.531	3rd
2010	Atlanta/NL	91-71	.562	2nd

MINORS TOTALS 459-387 .543

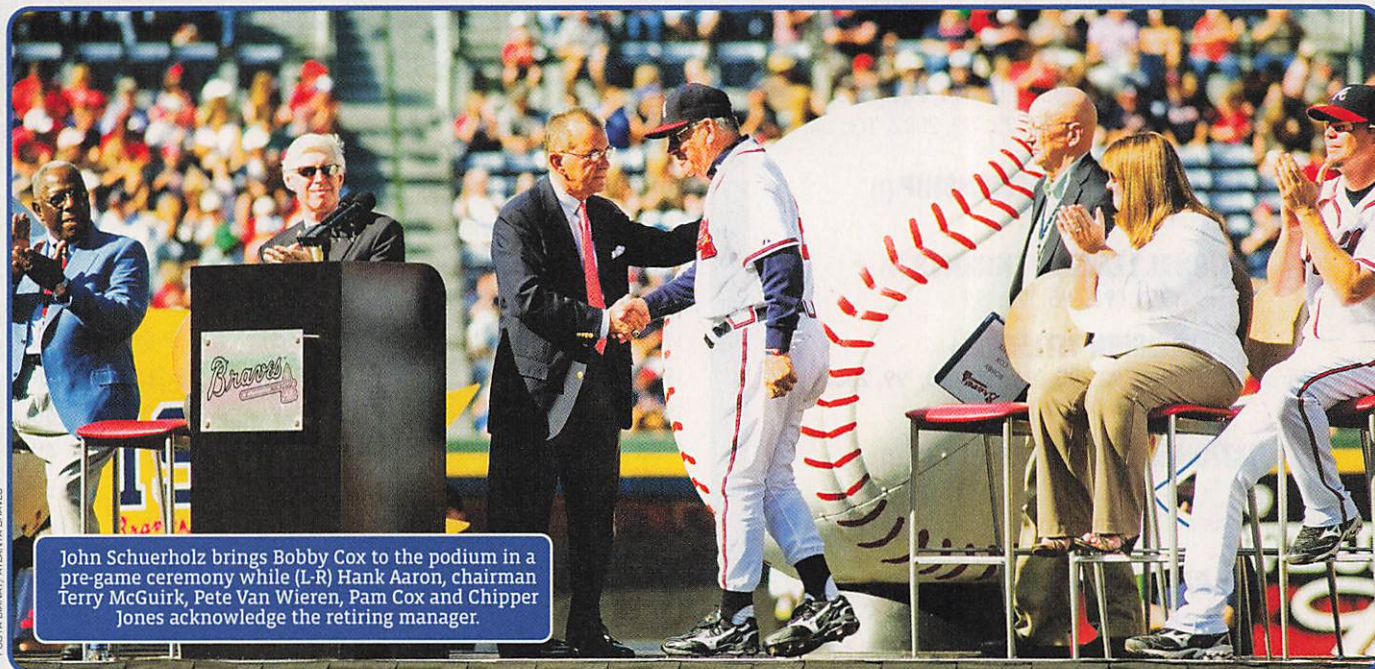
ATLANTA TOTALS 2,149-1,709 .557

MAJORS TOTALS 2,504-2,001 .556

* Took over on June 22.



A SEND-OFF FIT FOR A LEGEND



John Schuerholz brings Bobby Cox to the podium in a pre-game ceremony while (L-R) Hank Aaron, chairman Terry McGuirk, Pete Van Wieren, Pam Cox and Chipper Jones acknowledge the retiring manager.

THE MOST IMPRESSIVE element of the Bobby Cox Retirement Extravaganza, held the final Saturday of the regular season, wasn't the crowd of players - both Hall of Famers and journeymen - who showed up to honor their former manager. It wasn't the heartfelt speeches from luminaries past and present, the array of post-season pennants, or the lovely parting gifts Cox received from the Braves.

No, as the festivities began, you could get a sense of the impact Cox has had on Atlanta and the Southeast with a simple look around the stadium. An hour before game time, the stands were nearly full to capacity. In Atlanta! That never happens!

Part hail-and-farewell celebration, part coronation, the ceremony honoring Cox's decades of service might have been the purest outpouring of joy Turner Field has seen since the naming of the All-Century Team before Game 2 of the 1999 World Series. Almost everyone drew cheers, with the loudest reserved for Braves icons like The Big Three - David Justice, Dale Murphy and Phil Niekro.

You honestly couldn't have picked a finer day for the celebration. The calendar read October, but this was straight summertime weather, the sun high and bright, clouds

nowhere in sight.

Fans were told to arrive more than an hour before the scheduled first pitch, and the first to find their seats could see a large stage set up overtop second base. Two gargantuan baseballs flanked either end of the stage, and row upon row of folding chairs stretched from the top edge of the infield grass back toward the pitcher's mound.

Soon enough, the fans discovered who would be occupying those seats. Without fanfare, they came walking - some, very slowly - from the right-field tunnel, waves of former players wearing their jerseys over their street clothes. From legends like Maddux, Smoltz and Glavine to one-timers like Curtis Pride. From Hall of Famers like Gaylord Perry and Niekro to perpetual role players like Mark Lemke and Keith Lockhart they came, 76 in all.

Time had taken its toll - it was tough to discern who was who among many of the gray-haired ex-Braves - but the afternoon's first charge came when one distinctive bald figure broke ranks and strode toward the Braves dugout. David Justice spread his arms wide, and Chipper Jones was there to embrace his long-ago teammate as the entire crowd along the first-base line stood and cheered.

Soon enough, the man the players were there to honor walked with those characteristic repaired-knee steps toward the stage. Accompanied by his wife, Pam, several Braves executives, and Jones, Cox walked up the stairs to the stage to an ovation they could hear in Alpharetta, and the festivities were underway.

Braves Hall of Fame broadcaster Pete Van Wieren served as an able emcee, relating tales of Cox and smoothly shuffling between speakers, both live and on video. Commissioner Bud Selig and former Braves owner Ted Turner sent along their recorded congratulations.

"It's hard to believe I actually let you go, the greatest manager in baseball history," Turner said of dismissing Cox after the 1981 season. "Luckily for us, you came back."

Selig and Phillies manager Charlie Manuel, whom Cox later recognized from the podium, were the only ones to receive boos on the afternoon, and even those were tepid.

Braves president John Schuerholz called Cox "a Hall of Fame manager and a Hall of Fame man."

And through it all, the cheers were deafening, the loudest and most exultant for the

Braves since a cold October night 15 years ago when Atlanta finally won that long-awaited World Championship.

"Those [in 1995] were cheers of relief, of *finally*," Justice said afterward in comparing the two ovations. "This? This was appreciation. This was love."

Jones, the last remaining link to the World Series glory days, had the high honor of speaking for the players to praise a man he's known literally his entire professional life. While still a general manager, Cox scouted Jones as a high schooler in Florida, then watched him grow into the Cooperstown-worthy third baseman he's become.

The relationship between Cox and Jones has been one of the most enduring in Atlanta sports, one that's as much father-son as manager-player. And although Jones spoke with the wry air of a comedian at a roast, his love and admiration for the only major league manager he's ever played for was evident in every line.

"I want to personally thank you for taking a chance on me," Jones said, his voice near cracking. "I've been trying to make you proud for 20 years."

Safe to say, he's done it.

Perhaps the most impressive element of the entire celebration was the arc of pennants, one for each of Cox's 25 years managing Atlanta, that ringed the infield. Sure, there were a few white ones, depicting seasons that ended in the regular season. But there were many more yellow ones, depict-

ing playoff performances. Fittingly, a red 1995 pennant, commemorating the World Series win, stood right in the center.

With characteristic humility, Cox claimed that he was "a very small hand" in all the pennants lining Turner Field's left-field wall, giving all the credit to the front office and his players one more time.

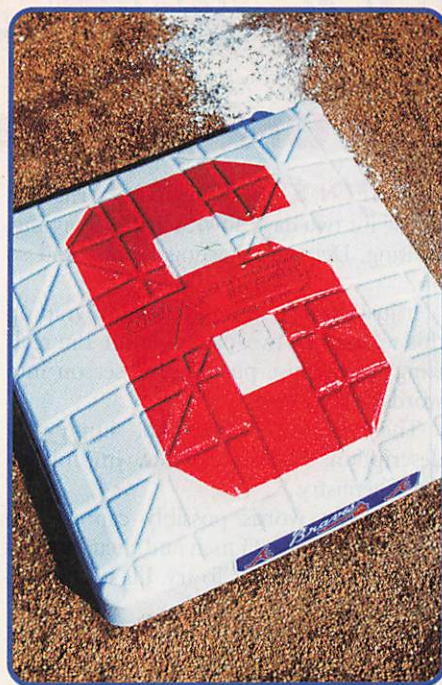
"The... reason is these guys right here," he said. "These are great players. They're my friends."

It was vintage Cox, humble to a fault, deferring all credit. But everyone knew exactly where the spotlight really belonged on this afternoon.

Throughout the season, Cox has received retirement gifts at almost every stop on the Braves' schedule, including a Wrigley Field seat (No. 6, of course), a flag that flew over the U.S. Capitol from the Nationals, a cowboy hat and boots from the Astros, and a case of Tom Seaver's wine from the Mets. (Only the Florida Marlins declined to honor Cox.)

On this day, the gifts kept on coming. The Braves presented Cox with a portrait by Opie Otterstad, depicting the manager in his customary game-day spot atop the dugout stairs. The current team blew it out, giving him a 2010 Lexus LS460; a bench made with signed bats, balls and baseball cards; and an 11-day Mediterranean cruise to share with his wife.

And one day later, the 2010 Braves gave Cox the best retirement gift of all – one last trip to the post-season.

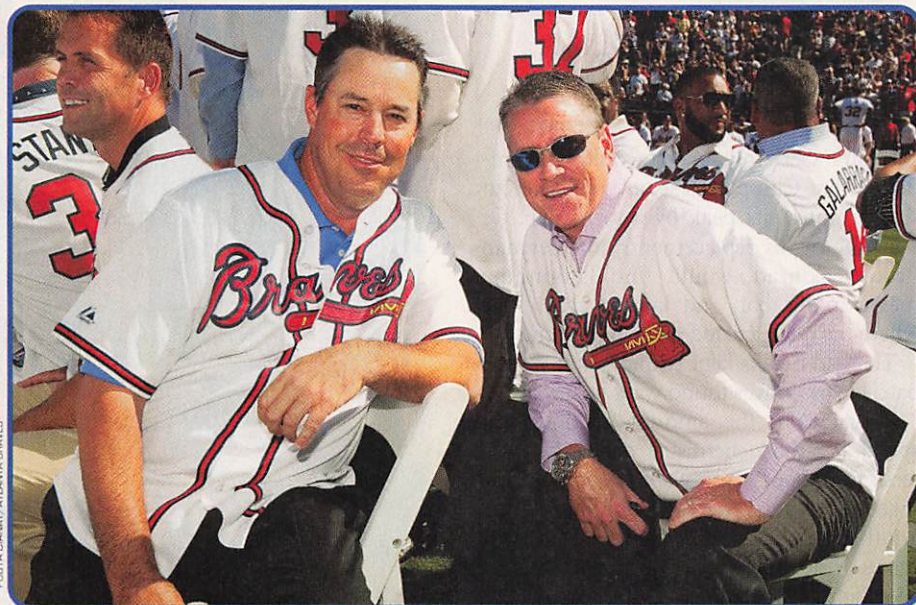


POLYA DANNAT/ATLANTA BRAVES

Turner Field was all tricked out to honor Bobby Cox, and even the bases were emblazoned with his familiar uniform number.

Former Braves players, coaches, trainers, physicians, broadcasters and executives in attendance:

Hank Aaron, Jose Alvarez, Andy Ashby, Bill Bartholomay, Mike Bell, Bruce Benedict, Mike Bielecki, Larvell Blanks, Jeff Blauser, Tony Brizzolara, Jeff Burroughs, Paul Byrd, Rick Camp, Chris Cannizzaro, Chris Chambliss, Dr. Joe Chandler, Darrel Chaney, Brad Clontz, Gary Cooper, Pat Corrales, Johnny Estrada, Andres Galarraga, Ron Gant, Gene Garber, Rod Gilbreath, Tom Glavine, Luis Gomez, Fredi Gonzalez, Marquis Grissom, Albert Hall, Chris Hammond, Terry Harper, Jay Howell, Brian Hunter, Clarence Jones, Brian Jordan, David Justice, Stan Kasten, Charlie Leibrandt, Mark Lemke, Kerry Ligtenberg, Keith Lockhart, Javy Lopez, Greg Maddux, Roy Majtyka, Dennis Martinez, Gary Matthews, Darrell May, Leo Mazzone, Kevin McGlinchy, Fred McGriff, Greg McMichael, Damian Moss, Dale Murphy, Denny Neagle, Phil Niekro, Otis Nixon, Russ Ortiz, Alejandro Pena, Gaylord Perry, Curtis Pride, Dave Pursley, Chico Ruiz, Gary Sheffield, Craig Skok, Pete Smith, John Smoltz, Charlie Spikes, Mike Stanton, Everett Stull, John Sullivan, Tim Unroe, Pete Van Wieren, Pete Ward, Jimmy Williams, Bobby Wine.



POLYA DANNAT/ATLANTA BRAVES

The two most recent Braves Hall of Fame inductees, Greg Maddux (L) and Tom Glavine (R) reunite among the large gathering of former players that returned.

A Wife's Pitch

BY CAROLYN LOWE



NO ONE WANTED THE YEAR'S MAGIC TO END

I'VE BEEN STRUGGLING to write this article for two days now. Starting. Stopping. Writing. Deleting. Starting again... and so on.

It just doesn't seem possible to wrap up this season in a two-page column. I'm realizing it's because putting this season into words sells it short.

There are some things that simply defy description. Elation. Sorrow. Improbability. Chemistry.

How can words possibly capture the emotion of these 25 men and their journey through 166 games? To try, I'll start at the end.

"Nobody wanted to leave," Derek said when he finally came home. It had been nearly three hours since the excruciating loss in Game 4 of the Division Series with the Giants.

"We just sat around the clubhouse talking, more than 20 of us. That's never happened on a team I've been on before. Usually guys just pack their stuff and leave. But tonight, no one wanted to be the first to go."

I could see the melancholy on Derek's face as he reminisced about a season he never wanted to end... A season apparently no one wanted to end.

I think the fact that it was Bobby Cox's last season played a part in that sentiment, especially for the fans. But for the players, it was more about not wanting the fellowship to end.

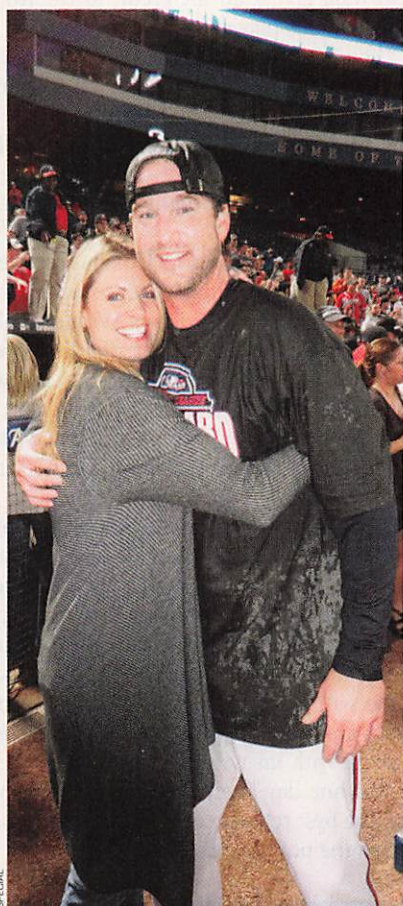
The reality is, not everyone will be back. That's a tough reality to face. Especially when the end comes so abruptly.

Whether or not you're a believer in chemistry and the role it may or may not play in creating a winning team, there is no denying this Braves team had something special. It's been said in so many different ways throughout the year.

During his tribute speech to Bobby Cox, Chipper Jones said more than once what a special group of guys Bobby thought he had this year.

"Hardest working" and "most fun" are two descriptions that have been repeated over-and-over.

"Unlikely," "improbable" and "magical" are more like it in my mind. At the start of the year, who would have believed that Martin Prado and Omar Infante would be



Carolyn Lowe hugs her soggy husband, Derek, after he participated in clubhouse revelry following the Braves' clinching of the wild card.

All-Stars? Certainly no one would have predicted that Chipper's season would be cut short right at its peak by a torn ACL. Or that one of his replacements, journeyman Brooks Conrad, would find late-inning magic in his bat, and later a cruel hole where his once trusted glove had been.

The bad breaks kept coming, and yet the patch-work Braves found ways to stay alive.

"Because of the amount of time you spend together, chemistry definitely matters," Derek said. "You want to keep playing together because you care more about one another as people than as teammates. Instead of mailing it in, you want to keep fighting and finding ways to win."

I'll never forget sitting next to Rick Ankiel's wife, Lory, in San Francisco when Rick hit the game-winning home run in

the 11th inning of Game 2 of the Division Series. It may have been so unlikely you'd have to call it destined.

Who could imagine the long road of a player infamous in baseball for his post-season meltdown as a pitcher (with St. Louis in 2000), hitting a ball into the San Francisco bay that capped a five-run comeback to win a playoff game?

The look on Lory's face and the tears that welled up in her eyes told the story of that road. It was the perfect punctuation to an unlikely success story during a season not short on exclamation points.

And you know what Rick said after?

"I couldn't wait to get back to the dugout, back to the guys. I didn't even want to run around the bases! I just wanted to celebrate with my teammates."

That's the epitome of "chemistry."

I've definitely seen a difference in Derek this year. The season is so long, and it cer-



Carolyn's friendship with Lory Ankiel (L) and Ann Glaus (center), which Ann competed, but they're likely head

tainly wasn't without it's personal ups-and-downs for Derek, but he was always eager and happy to go to the field. This season never wore on him. And I can tell you with certainty that it's entirely because of the guys he played with everyday.

"We were always really loose," he said. "We ragged each other a lot. Nothing was out-of-bounds, and no one was off limits."

Derek went on to say that he wanted to win more for his teammates than for himself. I think that's why his final start this year in Game 4 will bother him for a while despite how well he pitched. After Bobby Cox let him stay in the game in the seventh inning with one out and runners on first and second, he failed to deliver the double-play he promised Cox and his teammates he would get.

I can still see the picture in my mind of Derek leaning over with his hands on his knees, staring at the ground, and I wish I could change the outcome. He wanted so badly to win for this team.

Even if the Braves had been able to win

that game, Derek most likely wouldn't have been able to pitch again. A blister on the thumb of his pitching hand split open the day before his start in Game 4.

I don't know how he was able to pitch at all in that game, not to mention take a no-hitter into the sixth inning. Apparently, the Braves were able to hold the cut together with super glue. But no amount of glue or guts would hold it together now. His season would have been over, one way or the other.

Now I'm left with the unenviable task of packing up our Atlanta house and loading up the cars for our journey back to our off-season home in Florida. As I paste my familiar sticky notes all over the house, reminding me of the tasks yet to be undertaken, it's hard not to think back to our journey to spring training eight months ago. All the expectations of a season that was yet to be have turned into the reality of the season that was. Despite it ending on a loss, it's hard to feel beaten.

Unable or unwilling to say goodbye to Atlanta just yet, Derek and I went out to dinner the night after the last playoff game with Troy Glaus and his wife, Ann, Rick Ankiel and his wife, Lory, and Peter Moylan and his fiancée, Mandy.

There was no talk of defeat. It was as jovial a dinner as there could be. All the conversations were positive, and laughter dominated the landscape. That despite the fact that Troy will more than likely not return to the Braves. In fact, his future in baseball is uncertain. Will Rick be back? That's anyone's guess.

But no one was talking about his future. Instead, the guys were re-living the recent past, because they are keenly aware of how rare a team they were just part of in 2010.

Twenty-five guys from all walks of life are thrown together and asked to make it work. Sometimes it does.

"It's just luck," Derek said.

Then it's safe to say the 2010 Braves got lucky. Here's hoping the 2011 Braves will do the same.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Carolyn Lowe, the wife of Derek Lowe, contributed a monthly column to ChopTalk throughout the season.



ter) led to this outing at an Atlanta equestrian event in d in different directions for next season.

BOBBY COX FANS! SAVE THE DATE!

FEBRUARY 5, 2011

BOBBY AND PAM COX will be the honored guests at the Braves 400 Fan Club's annual winter banquet on Saturday, February 5, 2011 at the Georgia World Congress Center.

"Save the date" and make plans to attend the "Gameboree." Watch for details in the December issue of ChopTalk and check online at www.braves400.org.



Braves 400 Fan Club membership provides VIP access to:

- Players, coaches and management at club luncheons and activities
- Tickets through the exclusive fan club ticket exchange
- Advance post-season tickets before they go on sale to the general public
- Discount rate for the winter banquet that celebrates Braves heroes

Join on-line today at
www.braves400.org

Call the Braves 400 Fan Club Hotline
770-416-4539
for more benefits on fan club membership.

Or send a \$25 check to
Braves 400 Fan Club
P O Box 7689, Atlanta Ga 30309



Bobby Cox welcomes friend and new Braves manager Fredi Gonzalez at a press conference.

PHOTO: DANIT/ATLANTA BRAVES

NEW BEGINNING

With Five Years Of Experience In The Organization, **Gonzalez** Brings Continuity In Replacing Cox

BY PATTY RASMUSSEN

THERE'S A LOT TO BE SAID for continuity. Not only does new Braves manager Fredi Gonzalez have a history with the team, managing and coaching at the minor and major league levels, he also looks to Bobby Cox as a mentor. As an added bonus, their wives even have the same first name: Pam.

The question of who the Braves' next manager would be was a source of speculation since Cox announced last Sept. 23 his intention to retire following the 2010 season. And the Braves didn't waste any time, making the official offer to Gonzalez on Oct. 12, the day after the Game 4 Division Series loss.

"There's not a person alive who could replace Bobby. I just want to continue the winning tradition and go from there," Gonzalez said at his introductory press conference held Oct. 13 at Turner Field.

But introductions were hardly necessary. Gonzalez, 46, was well-known and well-liked by everyone in the Braves organization from his days managing Triple-A Richmond (2002) and as third base coach for Cox in Atlanta (2003-2006). He was so familiar with the people in the room during the press conference that he called reporters by name.

"I've known Fredi since Class A, watched him coach and manage a lot of years in the minor leagues," said general manager Fran Wren. "We saw all his skill from day one. Fredi's got a great personality. Players gravitate to him and like playing for him. Because they like to play for you, they play even better."

Most importantly, Gonzalez has a solid managerial record. In three and a half seasons managing the Florida Marlins, he had a 276-279 record (.497) and is that franchise's all-time winningest manager. The Marlins finished second in the National League East in his second year with the team, 2008, with a record of 84-77, and Gonzalez was named NL Manager of the Year.

"Once Fredi got to manage at the major league level, we saw what he did in Florida," Wren said. "He was impressive. His peers saw it. All those things gave us a good feeling about him coming to be the next manager of the Braves."

Gonzalez's coaching staff is also filled with familiar faces. Roger McDowell remains as pitching coach, Brian Snitker will continue as third base coach, and Eddie Perez will serve as bullpen coach. Terry Pendleton moves from hitting coach to first base coach. Gonzalez will bring his former Marlins bench coach,

Carlos Tosca, to fill that role with the Braves, and the hunt is on for a new hitting coach. Glenn Hubbard and Chino Cadahia, Cox's first base and bench coaches respectively, were not retained.

Wren and his staff had begun compiling names of managerial candidates at the end of the 2009 season and kept paring the list until it had about 15 names on it.

"Fredi was at the top even though he was the manager of the Marlins," recalled Wren. "Our thought was that there may come a time when we have to call [the Marlins] to ask permission to talk to their manager. We were fortunate that he got fired, though maybe it wasn't fortunate for him at the time."

The wooing of Gonzalez began a week after Jeffrey Loria, owner of the Marlins, fired him on June 23. Wren invited Gonzalez to spend a day talking baseball at his cabin by Lake Wedowee in Alabama.

"We've known each other 20 years, but we haven't talked from GM to manager as to how you would handle things," said Wren. "You don't want to get blindsided by someone who has a different philosophy. I didn't think we did, but you just have to make sure."

other clubs, including the Cubs, began calling Gonzalez to gauge his interest in managing for them. The Braves, with Cox's blessing, initiated a second round of interviews and made sure Gonzalez knew he was the guy they wanted.

For his part, Gonzalez was thrilled to be wanted by the Braves.

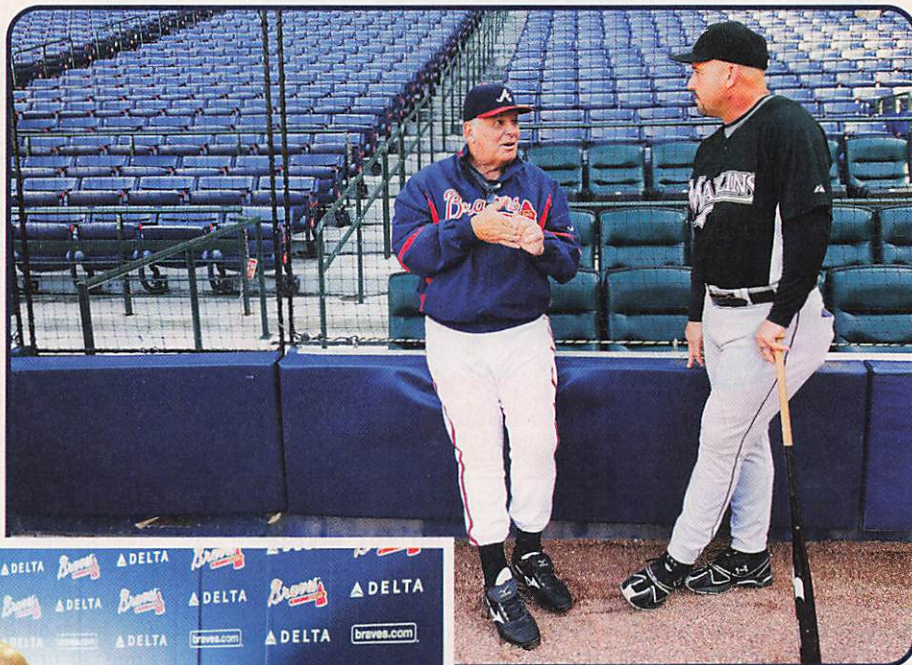
"I've sat around the house for four months," he said. "When you first get fired, you feel bad, but you have an opportunity to

But Cox pooh-poohs the notion that he is irreplaceable.

"Anyone can be replaced," stated Cox. "[Dodgers Hall of Fame manager] Walter Alston was replaced by Tommy Lasorda. They forgot all about Walter Alston, and that's what's going to happen here. I told Fredi when he got the Marlins job, 'You are who you are, you have to be yourself.'"

It was a sentiment echoed by Wren.

"We told Fredi, he can't be Bobby," said



Gonzalez (photo at left) laughs at a remark during his introductory press conference with (L-R) John Schuerholz, Frank Wren and Bobby Cox, and (above) visits with Cox at Turner Field when he was managing the Marlins.



They spent six hours talking baseball, covering topics from handling players to handling spring training to dealing with the media. Then it was team president John Schuerholz's turn. He also met with Gonzalez to conduct a preliminary interview. At its conclusion, both Wren and Schuerholz were satisfied all parties were on the same page.

Conversations between the Braves and Gonzalez intensified in September when

be home with your family and do things you haven't done for 20-some years, so that was good. I know the coaches are tired, the players are tired. It's a 162-game season. They're winding down, and I'm ready to get going!"

Gonzalez has big shoes to fill. The Braves haven't hired a new manager since Cox stepped out of the GM role to become the field manager on an interim basis in 1990.

Wren. "Fredi needs to be Fredi, and that's what we want him to be. Continue to be the unique person he is."

Gonzalez garnered praise for his handling of an incident in mid-May involving a lack of hustle on the part of Marlins All-Star shortstop Hanley Ramirez. Two runs scored when Ramirez misplayed a ball and booted it into left field, then slowly jogged to retrieve it. Gonzalez waited until the end of the inning before pulling the unrepentant shortstop out of the game. The decisions he made, to pull Ramirez and then benching him until he apologized to his teammates, were easy, said Gonzalez.

"You know the way the game should be played, and when it isn't, you have to do

CONTINUED ON PAGE 62

COX ON CANVAS



REPRESENTATIVES of ChopTalk and its subscribers presented the **Steve Penley** portrait to **Bobby Cox** in an on-field ceremony at Turner Field prior to the Sept. 29 game against Florida. CT columnist **Patty Rasmussen** and art director **Clark Odom** were present, along with Penley, to make the presentation. Cox was surprised and thrilled with the unique work of art. In fact, he writes about it in the lead to his column on page 19. Penley created the portrait, which shows Cox at various stages during his career with the Braves, at the request of ChopTalk editor and publisher **Gary Caruso**. Many ChopTalk readers, as well as some former and current Braves players and coaches contributed to the project and are recognized on the reverse side of the poster image of the painting that also was given to Cox. Copies of the poster are still available by calling 1-877-655-2467. See the ad on page 5 for details, as well as instructions for ordering by mail.

Bobby Cox accepts the ChopTalk portrait from (L-R) artist Steve Penley, CT columnist Patty Rasmussen and art director Clark Odom.

BATTING RACE

Omar Infante finally got enough plate appearances to qualify for the batting title (3.1 per team game or 502 for the season are required), but he failed to keep up his average to win it. Infante had 506 plate appearances and batted .321 to finish third behind Colorado's **Carlos Gonzalez** (.336) and Cincinnati's **Joey Votto** (.324). **Martin Prado** finished seventh (.307) and was fourth in hits (184) and tied for sixth in doubles (40) and seventh in runs (100). **Jason Heyward** tied for fourth in on-base percentage (.393) and in walks (91). Prado (126) and Infante (125) were third and fourth, respectively, in singles.

ARMS RACE

Tim Hudson was among the NL leaders in most major departments for starting pitchers. He was second in starts (34), tied for fourth in wins (17) and was fourth in winning percentage (.654) and innings (228 2/3), and sixth in ERA (2.83). **Tommy Hanson** also made 34 starts, and **Derek Lowe** tied for sixth (33). Hanson was 10th-best in home runs per nine innings (.622) and also 10th in strikeouts to walks ratio (3.089). **Billy Wagner** was fifth in saves (37).

ON THE MEND

Though **Jair Jurrjens** originally planned to undergo arthroscopic surgery to repair a meniscus tear in his right knee, at press time, **Frank Wren** indicated that would not be necessary. Jurrjens missed his last three starts of the regular season and had assorted other injury issues throughout the year.

"Jair pitched in Instructional League two or three times, and the last time he went six innings without any problem or pain," said Wren. "Hopefully, he's fine and won't need any surgery."

Chipper Jones was recovering from ACL surgery without any setbacks, according to Wren.

"He's coming along fine. He'll have to do a lot of work this winter to get his legs ready for spring training, but he's aware of that, and I'm sure he'll take care of it," said Wren.

PAINFUL LOSS

Martin Prado missed the final five games of the regular season and all of the post-season after sustaining a hip pointer and a torn oblique muscle Sept. 27 against Florida. He initially was hurt making a diving catch at third base in the fourth inning,

and then aggravated it swinging the bat in the fifth. No surgery is necessary, but he will have to refrain from all activity for two months before beginning preparations for spring training.

HUDSON'S COMEBACK

Tim Hudson was named National League Comeback Player of the Year. The award was voted on by the 30 beat reporters for MLB.com. After making only seven starts in 2009 following **Tommy John** surgery, Hudson went 17-9 with a 2.83 earned run average in 34 starts to help the Braves win the National League's wild card and return to the playoffs for the first time since 2005.

LOWE & BEHOLD

Derek Lowe pitched five shutout innings at Nationals Park Sept. 25 to put the Braves in position to finally pick up the 2,500th victory of Bobby Cox's career. Alex Gonzalez hit his 23rd home run, and the Braves scored four in the sixth to win, 5-0, ending a four-game losing streak.



Lowe also beat Florida, 5-1, on Sept. 29 on short rest to get credit for the Braves' 90th win of the season and his 16th of the year. That made the righthander 5-0 for the month with a 1.17 ERA with 29 strikeouts and only three walks in 30 2/3 innings. As a result, he was named National League Pitcher of the Month.

DIVISION SERIES ROSTER

PITCHERS (11):

Brandon Beachy, Mike Dunn, Kyle Farnsworth, Tommy Hanson, Tim Hudson, Craig Kimbrel, Derek Lowe, Cristhian Martinez, Peter Moylan, Jonny Venters, Billy Wagner*.

CATCHERS (2):

Brian McCann, David Ross.

INFELDERS (6):

Brooks Conrad, Troy Glaus, Alex Gonzalez, Diory Hernandez, Omar Infante, Derrek Lee.

OUTFIELDERS (6):

Rick Ankiel, Melky Cabrera, Matt Diaz, Jason Heyward, Eric Hinske, Nate McLouth.

* Replaced by Takashi Sato due to injury after Game 2.

SHORT HOPS

A Tampa Bay's **David Price** edged Boston's **Jon Lester** and the Yankees' **CC Sabathia** for the **Warren Spahn** Award named after the Braves' great who won more games than any other lefthander in history (363). The award is given annually to the best lefty in baseball, based on a formula for how each lefthander ranks in wins, ERA and strikeouts. In his first full season in the majors, Price, 25, had 19 wins, a 2.72 ERA and 188 strikeouts. The award is presented at the Warren Spahn Award Gala, hosted by Oklahoma City's Bricktown Rotary Club and **Jim Thorpe** Association in January.

A The Braves won 91 games in the regular season, their highest total since 2004 (96). It was **Bobby Cox's** 15th season of 90 or more wins. The only other managers in history to have that many 90 win seasons are Hall of Famers **John McGraw** (16) and **Joe McCarthy** (15).

A The Braves were a major league best 56-25 (.691) at home. They had 46 come-from-behind wins, second in the majors to the Yankees, and 25 last-at-bat victories, tops in the majors.

FREDI IS HIS OWN MAN, AND WE WANT HIM TO BE

WHEN BOBBY (Cox) announced last year that he was retiring in a year, we put together an initial list of potential candidates. Fredi Gonzalez was at the top of that list, even though he was managing another team. We laughed during the off-season, wondering if the Marlins would give us permission to talk to him about the job and knowing that they probably wouldn't.

Originally, we put together a big list, and we whittled it down to 14 by spring training. Through our conversations and due diligence, it was down to a small handful by mid-summer. Fredi was still No. 1 - and then he was fired (June 23). Once that happened, we started the process of talking to him right away.

Even though we knew him, we needed to find out on a different level what he was all about. When we worked together before, it was never as general manager to manager and talking about how he would handle situations as a manager.

The first week in July, I spent six hours with Fredi at my cabin on Lake Wedowee in Alabama, out of view of the media and the public, and we just talked baseball and all the different situations that come up in the life of a manager. I came away from that even more certain that he was the right guy.

Four or five days later, John (Schuerholz) did the same thing for a couple of hours, and he came away feeling very good about Fredi, too.

We told Fredi that we wouldn't do anything until after Bobby's last game, and he appreciated that. He has a great deal of respect for Bobby.

Then the Cubs situation came up (Lou Piniella retired Aug. 22), and they started interviewing people. They called Fredi, and once they did, we felt we needed to have a second interview and make sure we all still felt the same after sleeping on it for eight weeks.

After that meeting, we felt just as strong or stronger that Fredi was the right guy. He continued to get a bunch of calls, but I think he came away feeling good about the situation. He told other clubs that he wanted to see how things played out with us first.

The area that he's most like Bobby is personality and relationships with people. That's a great starting point that allows players to be comfortable with them and want to play for them. Fredi is easy to communicate with in a very relaxed manner. It's the first thing that gets your attention about him.

"Seamless" transition is not a word I would use, because that would indicate Bobby and Fredi are the same. That's not the case. Fredi is his own man with his own ideas, and he will do things his way. There will be a noticeable difference. We told him to do it his way.

Of course, we also watched him manage in Florida the last four years. We were very impressed with his managing and his ability to put his team in a good position to win with matchups and the best use of his lineup and staff.

One thing that was apparent while he managed the Marlins is that he was right on cue with his moves. He wasn't a beat early or a beat late. He seemed right on the money with his timing and how he used people.

There were so many highs and lows over the last 10 days of the season. When Martin Prado went down Sept. 27, I think that was the last blow that we couldn't overcome. We battled all year and our roster had a lot of depth and flexibility, but we lost too many frontline players to withstand that last injury.

We were able to squeak out three more wins to get in the playoffs, but we knew it was going to be real difficult. Even in light of that, we were in position to win all four playoff games with the Giants, and we gave them all they wanted. It's a credit to Bobby and the guys that we kept battling.

WHEN MARTIN PRADO WENT DOWN SEPT. 27, I THINK THAT WAS THE LAST BLOW THAT WE COULDN'T OVERCOME.

FLIGHT #6

DELTA, the official airline of the Braves since the team moved from Milwaukee to Atlanta in 1966, gave **Bobby Cox** a unique sendoff on his last regular season road trip as manager. Delta and its employees hosted a surprise celebration for Cox on Sept. 16 before the Braves' charter flight left for New York. The Braves' aircraft was adorned with a temporary, celebratory "6" decal, Cox's uniform number. Cox addressed Delta employees, and everyone in attendance had #6 signs to wave. The aircraft taxied out under a water canon salute, and local chef **Kevin Rathbun** catered the flight.



Bobby Cox, standing in front of the plane decorated in his honor, looks over the crowd of well-wishers that included club president John Schuerholz (L) with his "6" sign.

WINTER BASH

The Braves 400 Fan Club will honor **Bobby Cox** and his wife, **Pam**, at its annual winter banquet Saturday, Feb. 5, at the Georgia World Congress Center. The event is open to all fans, whether they are members of the club or not. Ticket details were not available at press time. Visit braves400.org for more information as it becomes available. The banquet is always an off-season highlight for Braves fans. The Braves' top farm system players receive awards, and other events include a silent auction.

CHARI-TEE GOLF

Former Braves **Tom Glavine**, **Pete Smith** and **Jay Howell** were among the 102 golfers participating in the Resurgens Charitable Foundation's ninth annual fundraising golf tournament Oct. 4 at Hawks Ridge Golf Club in Ball Ground, Ga. Dr. **Joe Chandler**, executive director of the foundation and director of medical services, emeritus, for the Braves, also participated. Glavine and Smith are foundation board members.

Nearly \$168,000 was raised to further the foundation's many projects, which include the construction of all-abilities

playgrounds, support of physical education in local schools, the PowerUp! initiative aimed at combating childhood obesity, injury prevention in youth baseball, and other programs that promote active lifestyles for people of all ages and abilities.

VISITING VETS

Six Braves visited Walter Reed Army Medical Center Sept. 24, when the team was in Washington, D.C., on the final road trip of the regular season. **Derek Lowe**, **Craig Kimbrel**, **Mike Dunn**, **Matt Diaz**, **Scott Proctor** and **Brooks Conrad** visited with wounded war veterans, including **Eric Braman**, the 25-year-old cousin of Braves public relations director **Brad Hainje** and an army private from Lafayette, Ind., that lost his lower leg after his vehicle was bombed in Afghanistan.

IN THE L.E.A.D.

Jason Heyward and **Tim Hudson**, along with Cubs outfielder **Bobby Scales**, will be among the instructors at the fourth annual L.E.A.D. (Launch, Expose, Advise, Direct) Celebrity Clinic at Turner Field on Nov. 20.

The clinic is for players ages 9-13. The next night, Nov. 21, L.E.A.D. will hold its first Dinner With Champions Awards Celebration honoring the organization's ambassadors and community leaders at Turner Field's 755 Club. Tickets are \$250 for the clinic and \$125 for the awards dinner. An all-access weekend pass is available for \$350. For more information visit lead2legacy.org or contact **Kelli Stewart** at (404) 867-4626 or kelli.stewart@lead2legacy.org.

IN THE SWING

Rome manager **Randy Ingle** and Myrtle Beach manager **Rocket Wheeler** will be among those participating in the second annual Braves Celebrity Shootout to benefit the Boys & Girls Club of Rome, on Friday, Nov. 12, beginning at 9:30 a.m. The event, held in conjunction with the Floyd County Police Department, will be played at the Stonebridge Golf Club in Rome. For more information, contact the R-Braves at (706) 369-9388.

ADULTS AT PLAY

The Atlanta Braves Inaugural Fantasy



Camp will be held Jan. 25-30, at the Braves' spring training facility at ESPN's Wide World of Sports in Kissimmee, Fla. Among the former Braves who will be participating are **Steve Avery**, **Mike Bielecki**, **Sid Bream**, **Brad Clontz**, **Marquis Grissom**, **Javy Lopez**, **Greg McMichael**, **Otis Nixon**, **Greg Olson**, **Pete Smith** and **Zane Smith**. The five-day, five-night camp includes hotel accommodations, big league clubhouse service and training staff, daily training and skills sessions with alumni, personalized authentic uniforms for games and batting practice, breakfast and lunch, a welcome party and an awards banquet.

The Braves Fantasy Camp is open to men and women ages 25-and-older and costs \$3,999. To register, visit braves.com/fantasycamp.

AT THE POLLS

Fans can vote for several members of the Braves, including **Bobby Cox** and **Jason Heyward**, in the This Year in Baseball Awards competition. Voting is online at mlb.com/mlb/awards/y2010/tyib. The Braves have nominees in nine of the 18 categories. They include Heyward (top rookie), Cox (manager), **Tim Hudson** (pitcher), **Billy Wagner** (closer), **Jonny Venters** (setup man), **Martin Prado** (breakout player), **Omar Infante** (X-factor) and general manager **Frank Wren** (executive). **Brooks Conrad** also has a strong presence on the ballot. His walk-off grand slam against the Reds on May 20 is among the top moment nominees. That memorable game itself has also gained a nomination. The three-run homer Heyward hit with his first major league swing on Opening Day is also among the top moment nominees, as is the Braves' ceremony honoring Cox. Conrad also earned a nomination in the oddity category because of the groundball that got inside his jersey during a June 22 game against the White Sox. **Melky Cabrera's** throw that went "sideways" during a July 31 game in Cincinnati is also among the nominees in that category.

BOBBY ON THE ROAD

Bobby Cox will be the featured speaker at the seventh annual Hot Stove Banquet & Silent Auction on Jan. 28 at the Holliday Alumni Center on The Citadel campus in Charleston, S.C. For individual tickets and information, contact the RiverDogs at (843) 577-3647.

I'M VERY PROUD OF THIS TEAM'S SUCCESS

I CAN'T SAY ENOUGH about the amazing painting I received from ChopTalk and its readers! It was unbelievable, and I never expected anything like that. It's so big I don't know where we're going to put it. But I really appreciate it and the donation to the Homeless Pets Foundation.

I know that ChopTalk readers are some of the most loyal and dedicated Braves fans out there. It's been a pleasure to get to "talk" to you every month through the years.

I appreciate the good wishes toward me and my family and encourage you to support Fredi Gonzalez with the same enthusiasm. I have a lot of admiration for Fredi. He's got all the respect in baseball from players and managers. He knows the game inside and out, has excellent communication skills, rapport with players, anything you'd want in a young manager.

Getting to the playoffs was a great accomplishment for our team. We hadn't been there in four years. I'm so proud of this team - you have no idea.

We went through a lot and lost a bunch of key guys. We lost guys from the rotation, Kris Medlen and Jair Jurrjens, Takashi Saito down the stretch and Billy Wagner at the end. We lost hitting, too, and that was the hardest thing. Losing Martin Prado, probably our team MVP, and Chipper Jones was huge. To get 91 wins is pretty darn good.

The depth of our organization saved us. We had so much talent ready to go, and that's a testament to our farm system, the managers, coaches and everyone who finds these guys and develops them.

It takes everyone in the organization to be successful. I don't do all this on my own. So many people work together to make it happen, clubbies, grounds crew, farm system, player development, the people who work in the front office. I can't say enough about everyone in the Braves organization.

We have nothing up here in Atlanta if the minor leagues don't do their jobs, and they've done a fantastic job while I've been managing. You have to scout them, develop them, and get them up here. Your GM has to make smart trades and smart free agent signings. Everybody's done all that. I tip my cap to all of them.

I've said for years that I hoped people would remember me for treating people fairly. Whether they're players or whatever, people are people. I always cared about people and hope that came through.

I started my career 51 years ago, when I was 18, and I'll be 70 fairly soon, and I can't remember half of it. I was told by the scout that signed me, Red Adams, to give it everything you've got because it's going to pass by quick. The reason it does is because you're having fun.

It's been a blast for me for 51 years. There's a lot of anxiety in it, but it's still fun. It was always fun to get to the clubhouse and get that uniform on and get the troops going.

I did get emotional at the end of the Division Series, and I've been that way before at the end of a season, not just because of the retirement. We lost a real tough ballgame and a series that was well fought. When I was talking to the guys in the clubhouse and said, "I'll miss you guys," it kind of got to me.

It was really special to sit down with the players after the game. I was in my office with some friends and my wife, Pam, and youngest daughter, Skyla, and someone came in and said the players want you out there. We just shot the bull for a while. It was pretty entertaining. It was great.

“ WHEN I WAS TALKING TO THE GUYS IN THE CLUBHOUSE AND SAID, 'I'LL MISS YOU GUYS,' IT KIND OF GOT TO ME. ”

PLAYING PEPPER

ALEX GONZALEZ



FOOTAGE: DANIEL/ATLANTA BRAVES

Originally signed by the Marlins, the 33-year-old Gonzalez also played for Boston, Cincinnati and Toronto before being traded to Atlanta.

playing with them - David Ross with the Reds. When I walked in, they started clapping. I heard David Ross doing that Mexican cheer, like, "Kekekekekekeke!" It was funny. I was happy to be here with a team that was like a family. It was exciting to wear the Braves uniform. The only thing I wanted to do was to help the team try to stay in first place, and we did until Labor Day.

CT: You've made some fantastic defensive plays. Who influenced you when you were a young player, or was there a coach that meant a lot to you?

GONZALEZ: I started playing when I was young kid. I played second base when I was a little bit shorter and then moved to shortstop when I got a little bigger. I worked with my dad every day in the back of our house. When I signed, the most important thing was my defense, having good range. The thing I've worked on the most is my defense, keeping my range and helping my team that way. You can win games when you play good defense, when you stay focused for those nine innings or more. It's something I work hard on every year, during batting practice and every game.

CT: You've had a good season at the plate this year, 149 hits, 88 RBIs, 23 home runs. Did you do anything different? Did you work on hitting more in the off-season?

GONZALEZ: The last couple of years I've been hurt, but this year I've been healthy. When you're healthy, you can put your numbers where you want them. That's been the biggest thing for me this season. I spent time the last couple of years on the disabled list, either with my elbow or my knee, and it was hard to ever get comfortable. None of us is ever really 100 percent, but we try to be as comfortable as we can be. Thank God this year I've been able to play almost every day and play healthy. The other thing is being consistent, but making adjustments. I've been happy with this season, because I feel like both sides of my

game were better. The best thing for me, or any player, is to play healthy.

CT: How many children were in your family growing up?

GONZALEZ: There were five children in our family, and I'm the oldest one.

CT: Did you like school? Were you a good student?

GONZALEZ: I was mostly focused on baseball. I love baseball and played ever since I was a young kid. I told my family, "One day I want to be on TV like those guys, a professional baseball player." But my father said you have to go to school first. I was an average student, and school had to be the first priority. But I knew I wanted to play baseball. I remember one day, early in the morning I had a test. I got my bag, put in my cleats, glove and pants, and went off to school. I just signed my name on the test and handed it to the teacher. She asked me, "What happened?" I said, "Nothing. I just didn't prepare for it." I went to the baseball stadium to try out for the Florida Marlins. I called my dad and said, "Where are you? Can you come to the ballpark?" He asked me why. I told him I tried out for the Florida Marlins and they want to sign me. That day was a surprise for my dad.

CT: Your dad knew nothing about this? How old were you?

GONZALEZ: No. He didn't know anything. I was 17. The test was early, about 7:30 or 8 o'clock in the morning. The tryout was at 9:30, and the ballpark was about a 25-minute walk from the school. I walked over there by myself and did the tryout. But now I've told my sons that they have to go to school first if they want to play ball like me, especially here in the United States. They have so many opportunities, not just in sports.

CT: Do you live in Miami year-round?

GONZALEZ: I'm a resident. I have a green card, but I go back to Venezuela in

NOTE: The Braves acquired shortstop Alex Gonzalez from Toronto on July 14, along with lefty reliever Tim Collins (since traded to Kansas City) and infielder Tyler Pastornicky, in exchange for shortstop Yunel Escobar and lefthander Jo-Jo Reyes.

INTERVIEW BY
PATTY RASMUSSEN

CHOPTALK: When you arrived in Atlanta, your new teammates gave you a standing ovation as you walked in the clubhouse. What was your reaction?

ALEX GONZALEZ: It was exciting to be back to the National League, especially with this team. At the time, the Braves were in first place. I took my flight from (my home) in Miami to Atlanta. I knew a couple of guys who were here, the guys from Venezuela, and I knew some guys from

November or December to see my family there. My wife, Johanna, and our oldest son, Alexander (11), have green cards, too, but our younger sons, Johander (8) and Johan (4), were born in the U.S. and are citizens. We spend Christmas with our family, and they come to visit back and forth.

CT: You've had a difficult medical situation with your 4-year-old son, Johan. How is he?

GONZALEZ: He was born 2 months prematurely and spent almost all his first year in the hospital. There were complications after a surgery that put him in a coma. He has been on life support almost four years. Now he lives in a long-term care facility close to our house. He is still stable, growing and gaining weight. It is a very hard situation. My wife and sons stay in Miami most of the time and wherever I was playing, I would try to get home to be able to see my family. When I played for Toronto we'd play Tampa and I would go see them. They would come up to see me. Playing for Atlanta was great because we play the

Marlins and I could stay at home.

CT: Do people ever ask you how you're able to play baseball with a child in that situation?

GONZALEZ: Yes, but it's not any different than anyone else with a sick child. There are people who live with this same type of situation every day. I know it's my job to play baseball, and this is how I earn

ble. My other sons are growing up and doing things, too. We have to explain the situation with their little brother, but we don't want them to worry about those things. My wife and I try to help them experience other things - travel, play sports, but it is difficult.

CT: How would you compare the 2010 Atlanta Braves with the 2003 Florida Marlins (finished with the same 91-71 record as this year's Braves, won the wild

" I'VE TOLD MY SONS THAT THEY HAVE TO GO TO SCHOOL FIRST IF THEY WANT TO PLAY BALL LIKE ME. "

money to take care of my family. I know that I have to put other things out of my mind for as long as it takes to do my job. I care about my son. It's hard to play... it's not easy. This is my fourth year that my baby is sick, but you have to be strong. After that, I have time to check on him, to talk to my wife and my other sons. Thank God this year he is sta-

card, and went on to win the World Series)? Do you see similarities in the teams?

GONZALEZ: I think there are similarities, especially the energy in the clubhouse and on the field. That year, 2003, we never gave up. We fought for the playoffs. I think the Braves were the same way. We have everything we need. We have good offense and defense, great pitching and bullpen, and a great bench, too. Those guys can pinch-hit and hit homers or a double and change the game. We go out and try to do the little things that you have to do to win games. We have young kids who can play, veterans who know how to keep things loose. The best thing about the Braves is that we never give up. We always kept playing and kept scoring runs even late in the game. If we lost, we lost fighting. That's the best part, right there.

CT: You played for Cito Gaston in Toronto, a year and half for Jack McKeon (with the Marlins), and about half a season for Bobby Cox. Were their styles similar?

GONZALEZ: As managers, they let the players play, but play hard. They're the kind of guys who are into the game. They want you to play aggressive and be ready. For me, I'm proud to get to play for Bobby, especially this season. He's a legend. Everyone wanted to win for the team, but for him, too.

Gonzalez is greeted by Rick Ankiel after hitting one of his 23 home runs, tied for his career high in a season (2004 with Florida).



POUYA DANAT/ATLANTA BRAVES

ALL HANDS ON DECK

By Jon Cooper

With Star Power Lacking,
It Took Across-The-Board Contributions
To Achieve Success



Over the years, the Braves have had several “Bobby Cox guys.”

They were easy to identify. They were hard-working, hard-nosed players who made the club by putting in an honest day’s work every day, contributing in any way they could when needed.

Think of guys like Jeff Blauser, Keith Lockhart, Eddie Perez, Michael Tucker, Greg McMichael, Charlie Leibrandt.

They provided grit and character to the glossy mystique of super-talents like the Maddux-Glavine-Smoltz triumvirate and the Jones boys, Chipper and Andruw.

In 2010, Atlanta may have had an entire team of “Bobby Cox guys” in the National League Wild Card-winning Braves.

“The Braves do a good job of finding ballplayers,” said Kris Medlen, who became a valuable part of the rotation when Jair Jurrjens injured his left hamstring on April 29 in St. Louis, only to go down for the year himself with an elbow injury on Aug. 4. “I don’t know many organizations that would give a 5-foot-9 1/2 righty who throws 90 (mph) a chance. I’m a good example, and so is [utilityman] Brooks Conrad.

“They give chances to guys who like playing the game hard and just competing. I think that has a lot to do with being able to step into a role that you’re not usually comfortable with, being a reliever to a starter or ‘Brooksie’ being a bench guy to being a starter.

“I absolutely love this team,” Medlen continued. “I don’t see it getting much better than this. Just the group of guys that we have and the coaching staff, and just everybody from the top to the bottom. It’s a total group effort, and it’s the most fun I’ve ever had playing baseball.”

This team also was near and dear to Cox’s heart.

“It’s one of those special teams,” Cox said. “We find ways to win late, the pitching keeps us there. We come up with a big, clutch hit every now and then. It’s pretty gratifying what this team has done.”

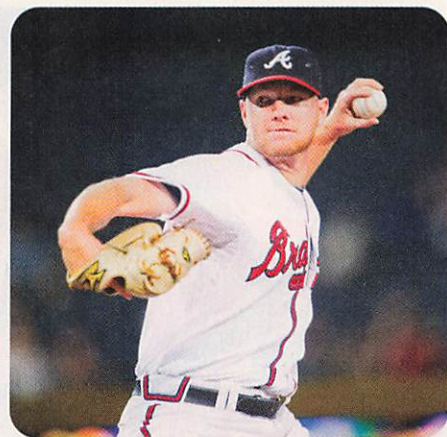
Of course, there was the signature Braves starting pitching and some gifted talent, but the 2010 Braves were made by the bullpen and the bench, which in the past have been considered weak links.

This year, the team couldn’t afford a weak link. The Braves’ superstars, including Chipper Jones, Brian McCann, and rookie sensation Jason Heyward, went through extended slumps. Jones’ play

raised questions about expediting retirement. McCann’s slow start had him questioning his placement on the NL All-Star team. And Heyward’s problems were due mostly to a hand injury, which opened the door for other candidates to challenge him for Rookie of the Year.

The lack of consistent hitting brought recognition to the team’s most consistent bat, Martin Prado, and the versatile super-sub, Omar Infante.

The inconsistency, followed by an aggressive injury bug, forced the Braves to field 109 different lineups and revamp the



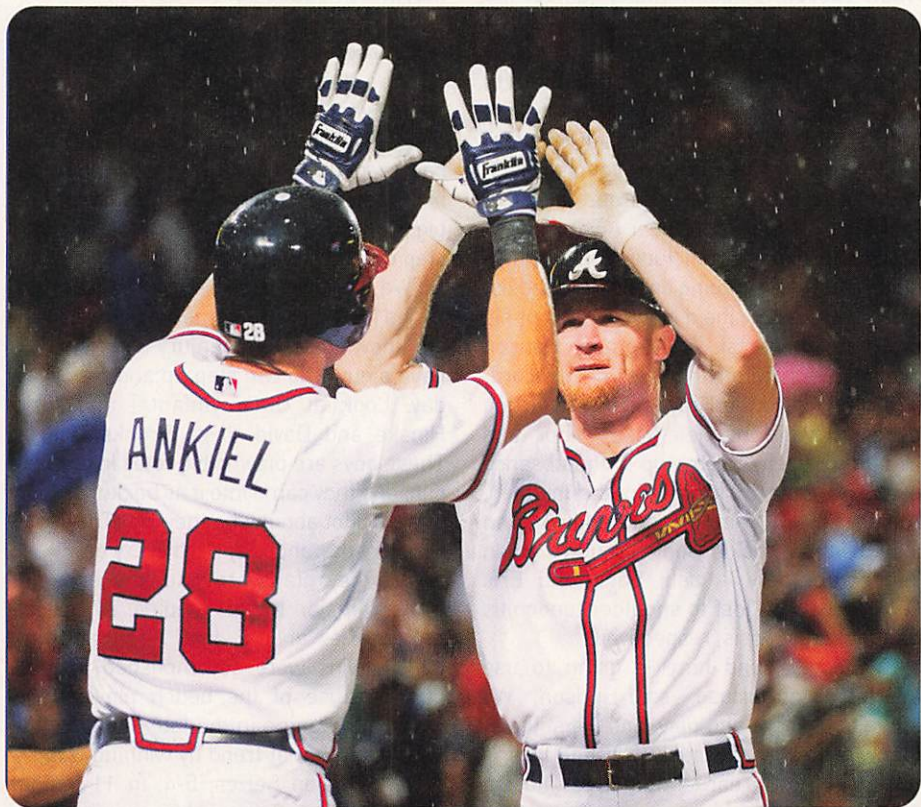
Jonny Venters, who didn’t even make the team out of spring training, wound up appearing in 79 games, second on the Braves to Peter Moylean and tops in the majors for a rookie.

infield and the back end of the rotation.

On the final day of the season, in lineup No. 109, the only Brave on the infield who started the season opener was McCann, and the only outfielder in the same position was Heyward in right.

“You work with what you’ve got,” said Conrad, who by the end of the season had

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



The pinch-hitting exploits of Eric Hinske (facing page) and Brooks Conrad (accepting congratulations from Rick Ankiel), were critical to the Braves’ winning the wild card.



Backup catcher David Ross (L) and setup man Takashi Saito both played important roles in the Braves' surge that included spending more than three months in first place (May 31-Sept. 6).

become a regular infielder due to season-ending injuries to Jones and then Prado. "It's what you have to do throughout the whole season to keep winning games. You don't like to see guys go down, but we just pick each other up."

The pitching staff wasn't immune to injury and slumps, but similarly overcame both. Tim Hudson, who missed most of 2009 rehabbing from Tommy John surgery, came back to win 17 games and NL Comeback Player of the Year Award. Derek Lowe won 16 games, including his final five starts after nearly going on the disabled list with a sore elbow (he'd won only two of his previous 13 starts). And Tommy Hanson pitched much better than his 10-11 record.

The trio gave the Braves a solid starting base, allowing rookies Mike Minor and Brandon Beachy to step up in the absence of Jurrjens and Medlen. In the bullpen, rookies Craig Kimbrel and Mike Dunn joined fellow rookie Jonny Venters when key setup men Takashi Saito and Eric O'Flaherty were lost to shoulder tendonitis and mononucleosis, respectively.

"Nobody around here is going to use injuries as an excuse," said Hudson. "We still go out there and play, and we still feel like we can win. Obviously, our lineup isn't full-go like it was earlier in the year, but we still feel like we can go out there and scratch and win."

The Braves developed character and

resilience by leaning on one another, and they dug deeper to find a way to stay in playoff contention, even when it looked as if they were headed out the door.

"The guys have been great," said Jones. "Whenever we've had a tough injury, someone has stepped in and done just enough to get us what we needed to do on that particular day, and that's to get a win. The team has responded every time we've had our backs against the wall, with big win after big win. I expect somebody at some point to step up and get it done."

"We have the best bench in the game," added McCann. "We came into spring training knowing that if an injury happened, we have a guy who can step up and play every day. Look at Omar [Infante] and [Eric] Hinske and David Ross, Brooks Conrad. These guys are playing big roles in our season, and they came into it as backups. It just speaks a lot about who they are. They show up every day and play hard every day."

And they play hard until the end. The Braves' major league-leading 25 last-at-bat victories and NL-high 46 come-from-behind wins were accomplished in large part because of the bench players who were in the game in the late innings. They expanded on that trend by winning Game 2 of the Division Series, 5-4, in 11 innings after trailing, 4-0, through five innings.

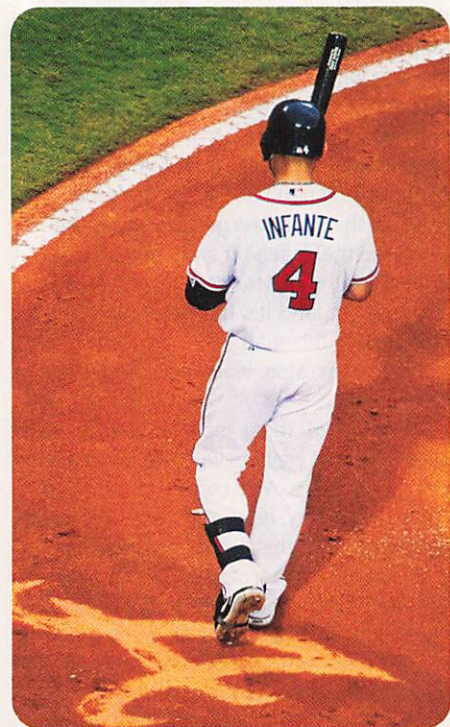
Conrad and Hinske were especially lethal, with three pinch-hit homers each,

the first Braves teammates to accomplish that. The Braves set a team-record with 10 pinch-hit home runs.

"When I first got here, it seemed like every other day we were coming from behind and winning in the eighth or ninth," said outfielder Rick Ankiel, an important trade-deadline acquisition that won Game 2 of the Division Series with an 11th-inning home run. "It just really shows our fight and how we grind it out."

That meant finding ways to win despite an inconsistent offense. Atlanta led the National League with 312 doubles, but their 139 homers ranked 11th in the 16-team NL, the lowest for a Braves' playoff team since the 1992 club hit 138. This team's .401 slugging percentage ranked 10th in the league, and the 38.9 at-bats-per home run was 11th. Atlanta finished 14th in the NL with 61 stolen bases, though that was the team's highest total in three years.

The Braves had only two .300 hitters — Infante, .321, and Prado, .307 — and only five players hitting at least .270. Power surges also were infrequent. McCann led the team with 21 homers for the second straight season, but only six Braves hit double-digit homers, and only three had as many as 70 RBIs, led by McCann's 77. That's the lowest RBI total to lead the team



Among his many contributions, Omar Infante strung together a career-best 14-game hitting streak and, in 66 games batting in the leadoff spot, hit .305.



since Dale Murphy had 77 in 1988, when the Braves went 54-106.

The 2010 club's .258 batting average was sixth in the National League, and while it was only two points behind the NL East champion Phillies, it was the lowest for a Braves team since they hit .250 in 1995.

But the sum was greater than the individual parts.

"It seems like you need balance more than career years," said Derrek Lee, who finished at .260, but hit .287 after being acquired by the Braves Aug. 18, including .330 over his final 30 games. "You see a lot of teams up and down the lineup, guys are having solid, productive years. That seems to go a long way. Sometimes you see a guy hit 50 (home runs), and no one else is doing anything. I think this team has good balance."

Balance and stubbornness. Atlanta led the NL in on-base percentage (.339) and walks (627). The plan was get enough men on, and eventually some will come around to score. While the Braves didn't necessarily get a lot of hits with men in scoring position, true to their theme, they got enough of them.

"It's been a year where it's just been one guy after another having a big hit," said Matt Diaz. "There haven't been a ton of cheap hits on this team. I think that's where the lack of career years comes in. The hits have all been clutch, and it's been a lot of fun."

A lot of those clutch hits came off the bench. Atlanta was third in the NL in pinch-hits (57) and had the third-best pinch-hitters batting average (.244). In "close and late situations" (the seventh inning or later with the team up a run, tied or down a run with the potential tying run at the plate or on deck), not surprisingly, Brooks Conrad (a .313 average with five homers and 17 RBIs) and Eric Hinske (.303, 3, 10) led the way. But every Brave had at least four RBIs in those type of situations.

"Part of it is that everybody's so close in here and has fun with each other. That starts to show on the field when you're able to pick each other up and believe in each other," said Ankiel. "Just pick the next guy up when he's not able to do it."

"It's not smoke and mirrors," said Cox. "We've got pretty good talent on this team or we wouldn't be here. We lost some key guys, but so did other people. It hasn't been easy, but we broke camp with a great bench and a deep bullpen, so when we had injuries, we could replace them."

MY LAST YEAR WAS ALL I COULD ASK FOR

NOTHING CHANGED about my decision to retire. You can't script it. You make a decision, and you hope it works out. If it does, great. If it doesn't, that's life. You have to be ready to move on.

Having an injury (oblique) wasn't how I wanted to go out, but I'm at a point in my career and life where I don't feel like I have to come back in order to go out on my terms.

I had already made my decision, so it makes the end easier to accept. I don't have to break John Franco's record (424 career saves for a lefty to Wagner's 422) to say I was one of the best. I don't need it.

I felt a little pinch around my ribcage when I went to field Edgar Renteria's bunt toward third (Division Series, Game 2). I thought it might be cramps. As I walked back to the mound, I could tell something wasn't right. I tried to gut through it and go.

When I lifted my leg to throw, I felt it more, and when he (Andres Torres) bunted back to me and I couldn't move, it was a bang-bang play on a routine ball. As soon as I reached for it, I couldn't move, couldn't take that deep breath. I felt like I'd been shot in the side. I've never had pain that brought me to my knees.

It was as tough a moment as I've ever been in. We're in the playoffs, with a tie ballgame, and my team counting on me to help them win. It was tough to walk off the field feeling like I'd let my team down and that it was probably my last game.

My wife probably had a tougher time with it than me. She was as upset as I've ever heard her, crying, because she didn't want me to have any regrets about how my career ended. But I told her we made the decision to retire, and if this is how it ends, that's it. I'm at peace with my career and my decision. I don't have regrets. I've enjoyed my career.

I wish I had a dollar for every time someone has asked me if I was reconsidering my decision to retire. I haven't reconsidered, because if you're serious when you make that decision, you know why you did it. My family means more to me than baseball does.

It was all about me for 14 years. I had to be selfish, put the family on the back burner. I had to be ready for the season even if my part was just one inning, 10 minutes a day.

I enjoy playing and could play two more years. My wife, Sarah, knows that. But that's not what drives me anymore.

I think I'll feel the tug come December, like I should be doing something, getting ready to play. But Sarah and I talked about this. It's got to end sometime. My kids aren't getting younger. They need guidance, and they need a dad around. They're going to be my biggest accomplishment, so I can't mess up on that.

Sarah has a honey-do list for me. I'll be quitting tobacco - it's at the top of the list. I'll start "driving the school bus," taking the kids where they need to go. I'll be coaching a couple baseball teams, going to recitals for my daughter, and then when my three-year-old gets going, I'll be taking him to Little League, too.

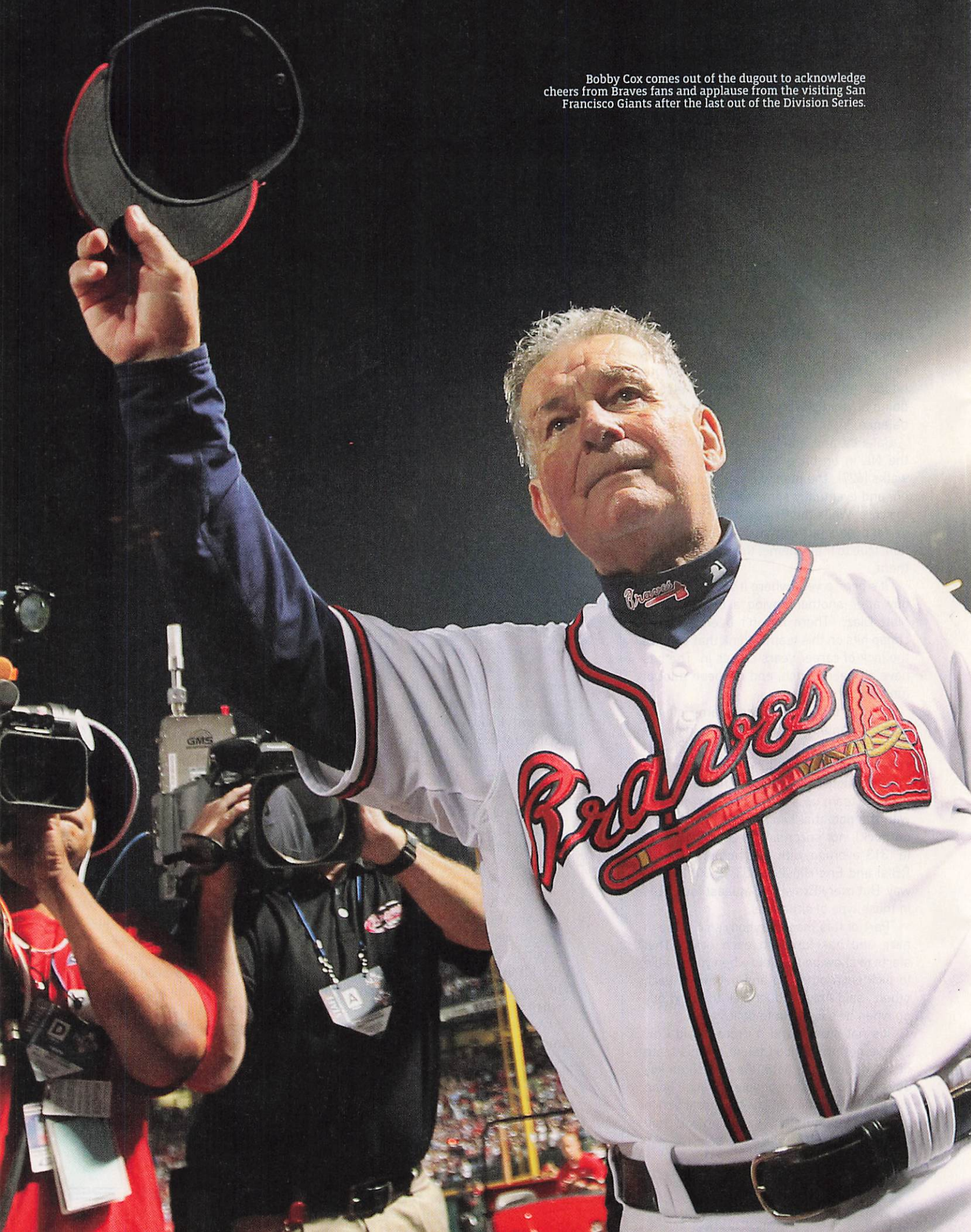
And that's just my kids, not even counting working on my farm, things for my church and my charity stuff. I have a full schedule.

Where I'm from, everybody is a Braves fan. So I've gotten even more support this season.

This has been everything I hoped it would be in my last year. The fans here have been like none other.

**I DON'T HAVE TO
BREAK JOHN FRANCO'S
RECORD TO SAY I WAS
ONE OF THE BEST.
I DON'T NEED IT.**

Bobby Cox comes out of the dugout to acknowledge cheers from Braves fans and applause from the visiting San Francisco Giants after the last out of the Division Series.



Three Excruciating, 1-Run Defeats End Playoff Run & Bobby Cox's Career

END *Of An* ERA



By Gary Caruso

The Braves players created a special post-season t-shirt for themselves with the theme: "11 for 6." Translated it means win the 11 games needed to send Bobby Cox out with a World Series championship. It turned out, however, that "One And Done" better summed up Cox's last post-season.

In a tense, spirited, hotly contested Division Series, the wild card Braves only won Game 2 against NL West winner San Francisco, losing the other three low-scoring games by just one run each.

The Atlanta hitters batted a collective .175 for the four games, striking out 46 times in 38 innings. Even though the Braves also received excellent pitching and limited the Giants to a .212 batting average, they were barely outscored, 11-9, but that's all it took to keep Cox's team from advancing to the NLCS for the first time since 2001.

The Braves tried to mount a ninth-inning rally in decisive Game 4 against Giants closer Brian Wilson, who led the NL in saves, but after Rick Ankiel and pinch-hitter Eric Hinske drew back-to-back

walks, Omar Infante struck out and Melky Cabrera grounded out to end the 3-2 game.

With the Giants celebrating on the field, the loud and emotional crowd of 44,532 chanted for Cox. The retiring manager responded, coming out of the dugout to tip his cap for one last time. Even the visiting Giants interrupted their celebration to join in a round of applause for Cox.

"That was nice of them," Cox said of the fans. "These fans have been great. They've packed the place just about the last five ball-games. And we appreciate their support. I have all through my career here. They've been absolutely great."

Asked about his reaction to receiving applause from the San Francisco players, Cox said, "I saw them, and I gave them a thumbs up, too. They played good, tough, and they had good pitching... We just couldn't do it. But that was nice, a nice gesture by the Giants. I love (manager Bruce) Bochy. He's one of the best guys in baseball. If we couldn't win, I'm glad he did."

GAME 1

OCT. 7 @ SAN FRANCISCO
GIANTS 1, BRAVES 0

An obviously blown call by second base umpire Paul Emmel permitted San Francisco to score the game's only run, but it was the Braves' hitters inability to make contact against Giants ace Tim Lincecum that allowed that paltry run to decide the outcome of Game 1, 1-0.

Omar Infante, fresh off accumulating enough plate appearances to qualify for the official NL batting race - and finishing third - led off the game with a double to left-center off Lincecum, the two-time defending Cy Young Award winner. He never advanced, and the Braves got just one more hit the rest of a game - a one-out double by Brian McCann in the seventh.

In fact, Lincecum, who set a Giants post-season record with 14 strikeouts - faced just 30 batters, three over the minimum. The only other Atlanta baserunner was a leadoff walk by Jason Heyward in the fourth. Infante was the only Braves position player - starter or pinch-hitter - not to strike out.

Besides Lincecum's dominating per-

formance, the other storyline was how San Francisco scored its run in the fourth inning off Derek Lowe, who worked a strong five and one-third innings.

Rookie catcher Buster Posey led off the inning with a single, and when Pat Burrell struck out swinging, the slow-footed Posey stole second. At least that's how the official record reads. Even before replays were shown though, it was obvious to just about anyone watching that Emmel missed the call - as replays clearly showed. Though McCann's throw was off the mark on the first-base side of the bag, Brooks Conrad tagged Posey on the hip long before his foot reached the bag on an awkward slide.

Lowe then struck out Juan Uribe, making it seem that perhaps the blown call wouldn't come into play. However, Bobby Cox ordered an intentional walk to the switch-hitting Pablo Sandoval. With runners at first and second and two outs, Cody Ross - the No. 8 hitter - hit a sharp grounder that hopped over the glove of Infante at third, allowing Posey to score. Lowe followed by striking out Lincecum - and the side - but the damage was done.

The Braves did not dispute Emmel's

blown call at the time. After the game, Cox said, "I haven't seen it (replay). Some of the guys came down after that inning and said he was out by six, eight inches. From the dugout, you can't see anything, and I didn't see a reaction from our infielders."

When asked about his strategy of walking Sandoval, who was slumping and struck out in his first at-bat against Lowe, to pitch to Ross, Cox said, "We made an error. That's all I can say... He made the pitch and got a ground ball. We kicked it."

Actually, Ross' grounder was scored a hit, though it appeared Infante might have had a play on it even though he failed to touch it.

Of the Braves' three baserunners, only one reached third base. After McCann's one-out double in the seventh, he took third when Alex Gonzalez grounded out to Lincecum. Matt Diaz followed with a routine flyball to center on the first pitch to end the inning.

Lincecum recorded at least one strikeout in all but the fourth inning. He struck out the side in the third and had two strikeouts in four innings, including the ninth when he struck out Heyward and Derrek Lee to end the game.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

GAME 2

OCT. 8 @ SAN FRANCISCO
BRAVES 5, GIANTS 4 (11)

A funny thing happened to the Giants and their orange throng on the way to taking a 2-0 lead in the Division Series. The Braves, down 4-0 after five innings, used a doubleplay started by the most unlikely of third basemen and a home run by the most unlikely of outfielders to back seven innings of shutout relief pitching and beat San Francisco, 5-4, in 11 innings.

Not only did the Braves' victory even the best-of-five series, but it gave Bobby Cox's team the home-field advantage with Games 3 and 4 scheduled at Turner Field where they posted the best home record in the majors this year (56-25).

After failing to score in the first 14 innings of the Division Series, the Braves finally cracked through for a run in the sixth inning and scored three more in the eighth to tie the game, 4-4.

In the bottom of the 10th, the Giants mounted a serious threat that began when former Brave Edgar Renteria led off with a perfectly placed bunt single down the third base line. Billy Wagner and Troy Glaus, who'd just entered the game at third base as part of a double-switch by Cox, nearly collided trying to make a play. Though it was not known to observers at the time, Wagner tweaked his left oblique muscle on the play.

Andres Torres dropped a sacrifice bunt that Wagner fielded, but after making the throw to first, he immediately buckled in pain from the oblique and had to leave the game.

Kyle Farnsworth replaced Wagner. He hit the first man he faced, Freddy Sanchez, and then walked Aubrey Huff to load the bases.

Buster Posey followed by hitting a grounder to Glaus, a third baseman most of his career but with just two innings of experience at the position this year. Though the situation seemed to call for a home-to-first doubleplay attempt, Glaus didn't hesitate, throwing to Infante at second, who relayed to first for an inning-ending doubleplay.

With one out in the top of the 11th, Ankiel, who hit only six home runs all year and just two for the Braves, drilled a 2-2 pitch from Ramon Ramirez deep over the right-field wall and well into the water of (Willie) McCovey Cove.

"It's hard to describe or put into words," Ankiel said of his emotion from hitting the home run that earned him a post-game shaving cream pie from teammates. "The biggest homer of my career, by far, and to be honest with you, I wanted to go from the



FOOTAGE: ATLANTA BRAVES

batter's box to the dugout. I didn't want to run the bases. I wanted to be with the guys. But what a cool way to win."

Tommy Hanson gave up a three-run homer to Pat Burrell in the first inning and another run in the second on an RBI single by pitcher Matt Cain. After that, however, Hanson worked two scoreless innings, and the bullpen, boosted by two shutout innings from rookie Craig Kimbrel, shut down San

GAME 3

OCT. 10 @ ATLANTA
GIANTS 3, BRAVES 2

On the verge of yet another scintillating, come-from-behind, last at-bat victory, the Braves allowed the Giants to rally for two runs in the ninth inning and a 3-2 victory that gave San Francisco a 2-1 edge in games.

Brooks Conrad, oft the hero with his pinch-hitting during the regular season and forced into the regular lineup due to the injury to Martin Prado, committed three errors - giving him four for the series - leading to two unearned runs, including the game winner. He's the first Brave ever to make three errors in a post-season game, and his four errors is a Division Series record. Counting his last four regular season games, he's committed eight errors in his last seven games.

Once again, the Braves failed to generate much hitting and had just one hit - a sixth-inning single by Tim Hudson - through seven innings. But in the bottom of the

DIVISION SERIES HISTORY

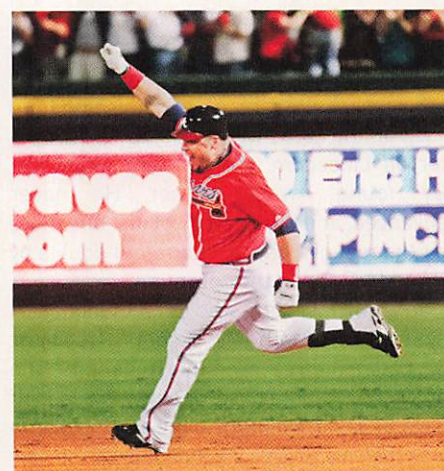
1995	ATLANTA 3 GAMES, COLORADO ROCKIES 1.
1996	ATLANTA 3, DODGERS 0.
1997	ATLANTA 3, HOUSTON 0.
1998	ATLANTA 3, CUBS 0.
1999	ATLANTA 3, HOUSTON 1.
2000	ST. LOUIS 3, ATLANTA 0.
2001	ATLANTA 3, HOUSTON 0.
2002	SAN FRANCISCO 3, ATLANTA 2.
2003	CUBS 3, ATLANTA 2.
2004	HOUSTON 3, ATLANTA 2.
2005	HOUSTON 3, ATLANTA 1.
2010	SAN FRANCISCO 3, ATLANTA 1.

Francisco the rest of the way.

Cox received his third career post-season ejection in the second inning for arguing a call at first base made by Paul Emmel, who blew the call at second base the night before that led to the decisive run. This time, Emmel called Alex Gonzalez out at first base in the second inning when it appeared the throw from Giants shortstop Juan Uribe pulled first baseman Aubrey Huff off the bag.

"I thought he was way off the bag, at least six, eight inches," Cox said.

Asked if there was any "carryover" anger toward Emmel from the previous game, Cox replied, "The only run that scored last night, he was out. But still, I respect the umpires, and they're human. So am I. And I'm not always right."



FOOTAGE: ATLANTA BRAVES

Eric Hinske salutes his eighth-inning home run in Game 3.

eighth before a frenzied, standing-room-only crowd of 53,284, pinch-hitter Eric Hinske slapped a two-run homer down the right-field line off reliever Sergio Romo to give Atlanta a sudden 2-1 lead.

In the top of the ninth, however, with closer Billy Wagner disabled for the rest of the series due to the oblique injury he sustained the night before, Bobby Cox turned the game over to rookie Craig Kimbrel. After retiring the first hitter, Kimbrel issued a walk to pinch-hitter Travis Ishikawa. Andres Torres took a called third strike for the second out, and then things unraveled.

Freddy Sanchez singled up the middle to give the Giants runners at first and second. With the left-handed-hitting Aubrey Huff due, Cox lifted Kimbrel in favor of lefty Mike Dunn. Huff delivered a single to right, scoring Ishikawa to tie the game, 2-2.

With runners at first and second, Cox pulled Dunn and replaced him with Peter Moylan. It appeared the strategy worked when Buster Posey sent a groundball to second base, but Conrad, who dropped a popup to let a run score in the second, let it roll through his legs, allowing Sanchez to score with the decisive run.

In the bottom of the ninth against Brian Wilson, who led the NL with 48 saves but blew Game 2 in San Francisco, the Braves managed a two-out single by Brian McCann, but Nate McLouth, a late-inning defensive replacement, grounded to second to end the game.

"Well, we had this one won," said Cox. "We gave up a walk, a basehit and a basehit. You know, we're not that... we're not the best team in baseball, okay. But we can win games, and we can compete against anybody. But we can't afford to make mistakes."

That's especially true considering the lack of production at the plate. With only four hits in Game 3, the Braves' team batting average for the Division Series so far stands at .165. A consistent lack of contact - 37 strikeouts in three games - is the major culprit.

GAME 4

OCT. 11 @ ATLANTA
GIANTS 3, BRAVES 2

Perhaps no one wanted to win this game and this series more than Brian McCann, the five-time All-Star catcher that grew up in Atlanta watching the Braves' great success of the 1990s and dreaming of helping to extend it someday. McCann had one of the best all-around performances of

DIVISION SERIES INDIVIDUAL STATS

BATTERS	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	TB	BB	SO	SB	CS	OBP	SLG	E
Ankiel	.167	4	12	1	2	0	0	1	1	5	2	4	0	0	.286	.417	1
Cabrera	.000	3	8	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	.000	.000	0
RIGHT	.000		0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			.000	.000	
LEFT	.000		8		0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1			.000	.000	
Conrad	.091	4	11	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	0	0	.091	.091	4
RIGHT	.000		3		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1			.000	.000	
LEFT	.125		8		1	0	0	0	0	1	0	3			.125	.125	
Diaz	.100	4	10	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	.100	.100	0
Glaus	.000	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	.000	.000	0
Gonzalez	.200	4	15	1	3	1	0	0	2	4	0	5	0	0	.200	.267	2
Hernandez	.000	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	.000	.000	
Heyward	.125	4	16	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	1	8	0	0	.176	.125	0
Hinske	.333	4	3	1	1	0	0	1	2	4	1	1	0	0	.500	1.333	0
Infante	.222	4	18	1	4	1	0	0	0	5	1	5			.263	.278	0
Lee	.125	4	16	2	2	0	0	0	0	2	1	6	0	0	.176	.125	0
McCann	.429	4	14	2	6	1	0	1	3	10	1	4	0	0	.438	.714	
McLouth	.500	3	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	.500	.500	0
Ross		2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	.000	0
ATLANTA	.175	4	137	9	24	3	0	3	9	36	7	46	0	0	.214	.263	7
OPPONENTS	.212	4	132	11	28	3	1	2	9	39	13	43	2	3	.288	.295	3

PINCH-HITTERS (AVG-H-HR-RBI)

McLouth (1.000-0-0-0), Hinske (.333-1-1-2), Cabrera (.000-0-0-0), Conrad (.000-0-0-0), Diaz (.000-0-0-0). TEAM (.286-2-1-2).

PITCHERS (AVG-H-HR-RBI)

Hanson (.000-0-0-0), Hudson (.500-1-0-0), Lowe (.000-0-0-0), STAFF (.143-1-0-0).

PITCHERS	W-L	ERA	G	GS	GF	SV	IP	H	R	ER	HR	HB	BB	SO	WP	OBA
Dunn	0-0	0.00	3	0	0	0	1.1	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	.333
Farnsworth	1-0	0.00	2	0	2	0	2	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	.167
Hanson	0-0	9.00	1	1	0	0	4	5	4	4	1	0	1	5	0	.313
Hudson	0-0	0.00	1	1	0	0	7	4	1	0	0	0	4	5	0	.160
Kimbrel	0-1	2.08	4	0	2	0	4.1	1	2	1	0	0	1	7	0	.083
Lowe	0-2	2.31	2	2	0	0	11.2	6	4	3	1	0	6	14	0	.150
Moylan	0-0	0.00	4	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	.167
Venters	0-0	0.00	4	0	0	0	5.1	7	0	0	0	0	8	0	.350	
Wagner	0-0	0.00	1	0	0	0	0.1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.000
ATLANTA	1-3	1.95	4	4	4	0	37	28	11	8	2	1	13	43	0	.212
OPPONENTS	3-1	1.66	4	4	3	2	38	24	9	7	3	0	7	46	0	.175

his career in Game 4, but it wasn't enough to prevent the Braves from losing, 3-2, and being eliminated from the post-season in Bobby Cox's final game as manager.

McCann's sacrifice fly in the third inning drove in Omar Infante, who led off with a single, giving Atlanta a 1-0 lead. San Francisco tied the game in the top of the sixth when Cody Ross hit a one-out home run off Derek Lowe, the first hit the righthander allowed.

McCann responded with a leadoff solo home run of his own in the bottom of the sixth to put the Braves back on top, 2-1.

In the seventh, however, the Giants scored the decisive runs. With one out, Lowe walked Aubrey Huff and a single by Buster Posey put runners at first and third. Cox visited Lowe, who convinced him he could stay in the game and get out of the jam. However, he then walked Pat Burrell

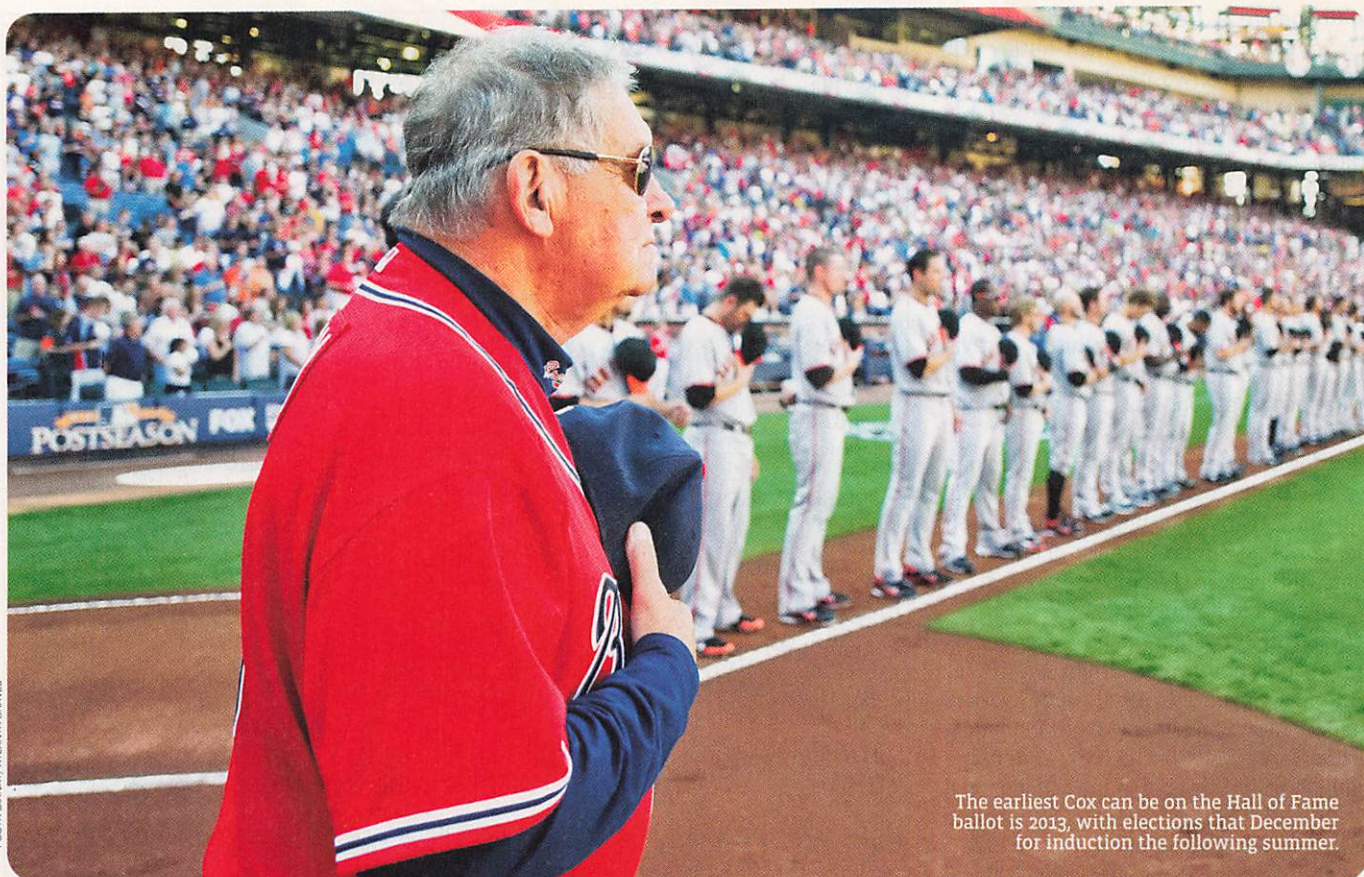
to load the bases.

Peter Moylan relieved Lowe and induced Juan Uribe to ground in the hole to Gonzalez. It wasn't a doubleplay ball, but the shortstop's throw pulled Omar Infante off the bag for an error and a run scored to tie the game.

Jonny Venters relieved Moylan. He struck out pinch-hitter Aaron Rowand, but Ross singled to left to make it 3-2. Burrell tried to score on the play, too, but was out at home when McCann took Matt Diaz's throw and blocked the plate perfectly.

The Braves managed only one hit over the last three innings - a one-out single in the eighth by McCann.

"We played a really good ballgame, and Derek pitched great," said Cox. "And we got the groundballs, they were just out of reach. We wanted the game big time, to get back to San Francisco. It just didn't happen."



The earliest Cox can be on the Hall of Fame ballot is 2013, with elections that December for induction the following summer.

A SHOO-IN

Cox Is Headed For Cooperstown, But New Rules Mean He'll Have To Wait Until At Least 2014 For Induction

BY PATTY RASMUSSEN

IT ISN'T JUST BRAVES FANS that believe Bobby Cox will one day be honored with selection to the prestigious National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y.

Baseball historian and award winning filmmaker Ken Burns said of Cox, "He's got to be in the top tier, the Mount Rushmore of managers."

Burns doesn't get to vote, but Rick Hummel, long-time baseball columnist for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch and recipient of the J.G. Taylor Spink Award from the Baseball Hall of Fame in July 2007, speaks with a degree of authority.

"He's a slam dunk," said Hummel. "Cox's 14 consecutive playoff appearances with one team are unmatched and probably will always be. Moreover, I've never heard a player who has left the Braves who said he didn't like playing for Bobby."

Hummel is a veteran member of the Baseball Writers Association of America (BBWAA) and a member of the Hall of Fame's Historical Overview committee, tasked with putting together the annual ballot which includes managers, umpires,

executives and long-retired players. But due to changes in election procedures, Cox will have to wait three years before his name will show up on the ballot.

The changes, which just went into effect this July 26, feature a composite ballot of managers, umpires, executives and retired players in three separate eras: Pre Integration (1871-1946), Golden (1947-1972) and Expansion (1973-1989 for players; 1973-present for managers, umpires and executives).

A manager 65 years old or younger would have to wait five years after retirement before consideration for induction. At age 69, however, Cox is old enough for immediate consideration,

but the timing is off for two reasons.

First, Cox needed to be retired for six months before his name could go on the ballot. Second, he fits into the Expansion era, which, unfortunately for him, is being voted on at baseball's Winter Meetings in Orlando, Fla., this December. The ballot was already set in October. The next time individuals from the Expansion era will receive consideration will be October 2013,

TENTH IN A SERIES
#6 THE FINAL SEASON

with elections in December of that year. The earliest Cox can be inducted into Baseball's Hall of Fame will be July 2014.

Once Cox's name is placed on a ballot, it's up to the 16-member Voting Committee, comprised of Hall of Fame members, major league executives and historians/veteran media members to sift through the names and stats and determine who will become a member of the Hall.

"They sit in a room and hash it out," said Craig Muder, director of communications for the Hall of Fame. "Anyone with 75 percent of the vote is in."

The Voting Committee changes annually and is selected by the Hall of Fame Board of Directors. Roland Hemond, currently serving as special assistant to the president and CEO of the Arizona Diamondbacks, is a well-respected baseball executive and is a member of the Voting Committee.

"I'm a Bobby Cox fan," said Hemond. "When players succeed, fans forget that the manager gave them time to grow. As a manager, he knows how to delegate. You don't have the type of success he had with the Braves without extraordinary patience."

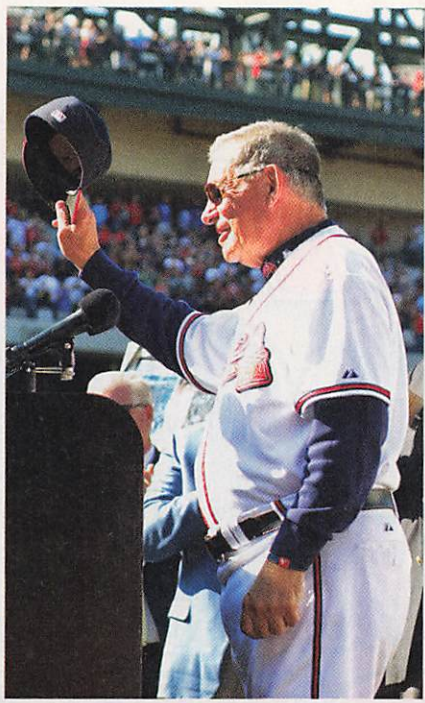
Hemond said the Hall of Fame provides committee members with an abundance of background information. Then they close the doors, and the committee members start talking.

"We discuss the performance of the

managers, not just their winning or post-season appearances," he said. "We analyze the types of clubs they had to manage. Some managers don't have the depth or talent that other managers have, but we look at how they performed with what they had to work with. There are many highly respected managers who put together good careers working with teams that weren't loaded with talent."

Though Hemond may not be on the Voting Committee in three years when Cox's name is bandied around the conference room, he knows how he would vote.

"We look at the whole of a man's career," said Hemond. "In Bobby's case, he had so many successful years that you know it couldn't just have been the players on the team. You know it had to be the manager. I foresee Bobby will have a future in the Hall of Fame."



POUYA DANAT/ATLANTA BRAVES

Cox, at the podium on the day he was honored at Turner Field and greeting players during Division Series introductions, would join Frank Selee (1890-1901) as the only men in the Hall of Fame for what they accomplished as Braves managers.



POUYA DANAT/ATLANTA BRAVES

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Cox's Coaches Remember Him As Much As A Friend As They Do For Being Their Boss



Terry Pendleton (L) played for Cox (1991-94, '96) before becoming one of his coaches in 2002, and Brian Snitker (R) was a member of his staff the last four seasons.

BY PATTY RASMUSSEN

THE TEARS FLOWED as Braves bench coach Chino Cadahia described the team's staff dinner held Sept. 23, the off day in Washington, D.C.

"There were about 25 of us," said Cadahia, struggling to compose himself. "It was kind of hard, emotional. Everyone went around the table and talked about what (Bobby Cox) meant to them. I think it might have been tough for him to hear. You don't feel that way about just anybody. He lets people in, and he's an unbelievable friend. I told him that day that whatever was said around the table was not enough."

That depth of feeling is shared by Cox's coaches, some of whom, like first base coach Glenn Hubbard, hitting coach Terry Pendleton, and bullpen coach Eddie Perez, have known him since their playing days with the Braves.

Third base coach Brian Snitker remembers meeting Cox - then the Braves' general manager - while serving as a coach in the Braves Instructional League in the early 1980s. He then was given the opportunity to coach under manager Chuck Tanner in 1987-88. Cadahia and pitching coach Roger McDowell were imports from other organizations. Cadahia came from the Texas Rangers to the Braves in 1996 as a catching

instructor and served as a minor league coordinator from 1997 until 2006 when he was named bench coach.

McDowell was a minor league pitching coach in the Los Angeles Dodgers organization before joining the Braves in 2005. To a man, they share intense feelings of gratitude, loyalty and respect for the manager they've served.

But they've also had some fun along the way. The coaches' stunt back in May when Cox and his lieutenants dressed in colorful zoot suits and hats for the trip back to Atlanta from Milwaukee, so tickled the manager that he told the coaches he wanted to do it again.

"We did that for him," said Perez, "but we never thought he would love it so much."

"Bobby's a lot of fun on the golf course," said Cadahia. "We've had some good dinners together on the road."

"One of the great things about coaching for him was the shift in our relationship," said Pendleton. "I had the opportunity to sit down and have dinner with him. It was much more personal than when I was a player. These nine years have really given me the chance to get to know Bobby Cox."

Cox was a friend to his staff, but he was

also a professional.

"From the very first pitch, he's passionate about the game," said Hubbard. "When I was a player, from day one, I thought he was out of control as a manager. I didn't recognize that it was passion until I became a coach."

Standing next to first base and sitting in the dugout, Hubbard heard the constant stream of encouragement and chatter from Cox's end of the bench.

"He was into the game, and he was so patient with everyone - players and coaches," said Hubbard. "He never panicked. Never."

Pendleton echoed the "patience" refrain.

"I think I picked it up more as a coach than as a player," he said. "When I was playing, my attitude was always to come out and be better than that team on the other side. It's the same as a coach, but I've learned there's a certain way to go about doing it. You can't always be 'gung ho, get after it' because you're not the one playing between the lines. I can't control that portion of it. He's taught us how to be patient from a coach's standpoint and go through the 162 games without getting strung out."

The coaches stressed Cox's loyalty to his players, and Perez said he believed Cox could be too loyal.

"If he has a fault, that was it," he said. "I know he was loyal to me at times when he shouldn't have been. I thought I'd be taken out, but there I was, still in the game."

Perez had a chance to apply that lesson while managing a winter league team in Venezuela.

"We were losing games, a lot of games," recalled Perez. "The GM and the owner were going crazy. I had people coming to my office, telling me to get rid of

this guy or that guy. I said, 'Listen, this is the team you gave me. This is the team I've got. If I go down, I go down with my players. I'm not sitting anybody, and I'm not getting rid of anybody. I still believe in my team.' And we started winning games. I learned that from Bobby."

Snitker said he pinches himself when he thinks about how he's spent the last four years of his career.

"I got to work with arguably the greatest manager of all-time," he said. "But the best part of this thing is that he's become my friend. I can pick up the phone, call him and talk. I've never called him that he hasn't answered. He's a better person, a better man, than he is a manager - and he's a great manager."

Displays Of Appreciation & Gratitude Met Cox At Nearly Every Stop On The Schedule

IN ADDITION to the stunning portrait of Bobby Cox commissioned by ChopTalk and painted by Steve Penley, major league organizations from the National and American Leagues stepped up with gifts and tributes of their own to the outgoing manager.

By the end of the season, Cox had received charitable donations given in his name, portraits, wine, and even cowboy boots from his

many admirers in the game.

"It's been humbling, to tell you the truth," said Cox. "I was honored and really touched by all the gift and tributes. I think the one that really got me the most was exchanging the lineups with Lou Piniella in Chicago. He announced he was retiring that day, and I've known Lou a long time. We both had tears in our eyes up there."



WASHINGTON NATIONALS

NL EAST

PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES

Private lunch, mural/portrait painted by 92-year-old Atlanta artist Jim Schell.

NEW YORK METS

On-field presentation of a magnum of wine from Tom Seaver's California vineyard, signed by Seaver and a case of wine to be shipped to Cox.

WASHINGTON NATIONALS

Framed U.S. flag flown over the U.S. Capitol in September. Pre-game ceremony with team president Stan Kasten, long-time friend and Braves chairman emeritus Bill Bartholomay, Nationals manager Jim Riggleman, Nationals GM Mike Rizzo, Nationals principal owner Mark Lerner. Video tribute and Navy band.

NL CENTRAL

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS

Framed and autographed photo of Hall of Famer Stan Musial, one of Cox's favorite players.

PITTSBURGH PIRATES

Video tribute and \$5,000 donation to Homeless Pets Foundation.

HOUSTON ASTROS

Cowboy boots and cowboy hat.

CHICAGO CUBS

Exchanged lineup card with Lou Piniella (who retired that day), a framed #6 from the Wrigley Field scoreboard, and a flag that was flown over Wrigley Field in 2010.

MILWAUKEE BREWERS

Cigars and humidor in pre-game ceremony.

CINCINNATI REDS

A set of etched wine glasses and an etched wine decanter.

NL WEST

COLORADO ROCKIES

Trip to a dude ranch in Colorado, fly rod and reel.

LOS ANGELES DODGERS

Lineup card exchange with outgoing manager Joe Torre. Torre also gave Cox a box of cigars.

SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS

Video tribute during fifth inning of the final game of the series.

SAN DIEGO PADRES

Pre-game recognition during lineups.

ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS

On-field recognition, plaque.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

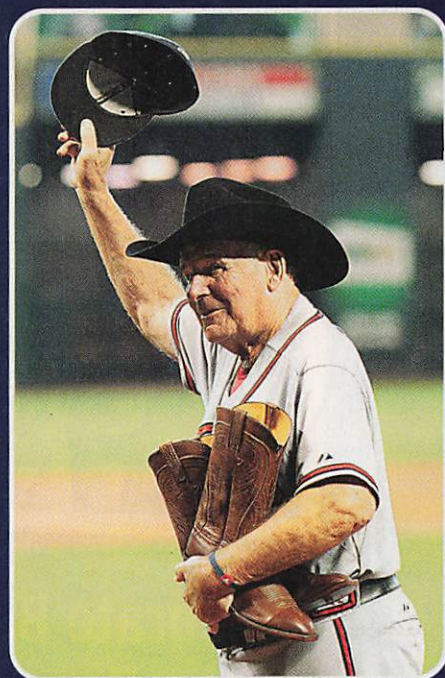
MINNESOTA TWINS

Video tribute, \$5,000 donation to Homeless Pets Foundation.

CHICAGO WHITE SOX

Custom-built humidor purchased by manager Ozzie Guillen, filled with cigars purchased by team chairman Jerry Reinsdorf.

- COMPILED BY PATTY RASMUSSEN

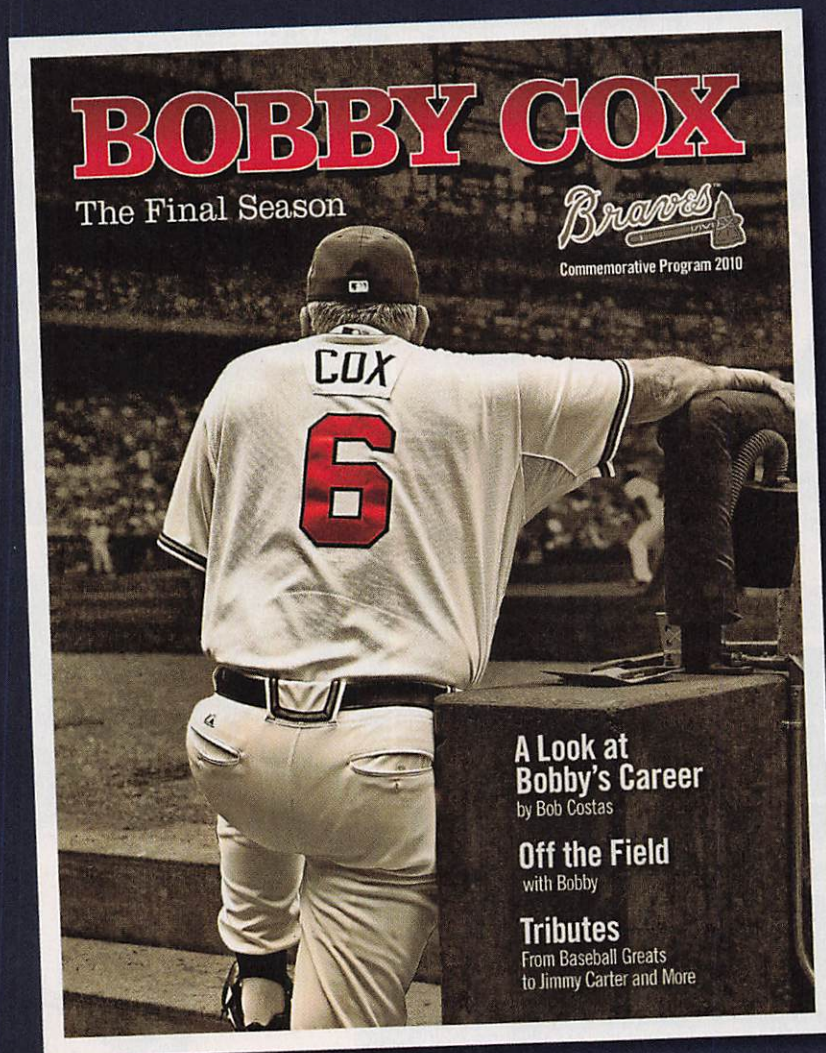


HOUSTON ASTROS

A Nationals employee holds a framed flag and a photo from the first game at Nationals Stadium while Stan Kasten presents it to Cox (above), and Cox salutes the crowd in Houston after receiving a cowboy hat and boots from the Astros.

BOBBY COX

COMMEMORATIVE PROGRAM



-
- Feature article by Bob Costas
 - Bobby's life off the field
 - Tributes to Bobby from former and current players and coaches as well as Elton John, Tony LaRussa and President Jimmy Carter
-

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BEHIND THE NUMBERS

COX'S TWO DECADES OF EXCELLENCE

BY STEVE FALL

IT TOOK BOBBY COX until his eighth year as a manager to reach the post-season. After that, he made it a habit. Cox's teams made the playoffs in 16 of his final 22 seasons.

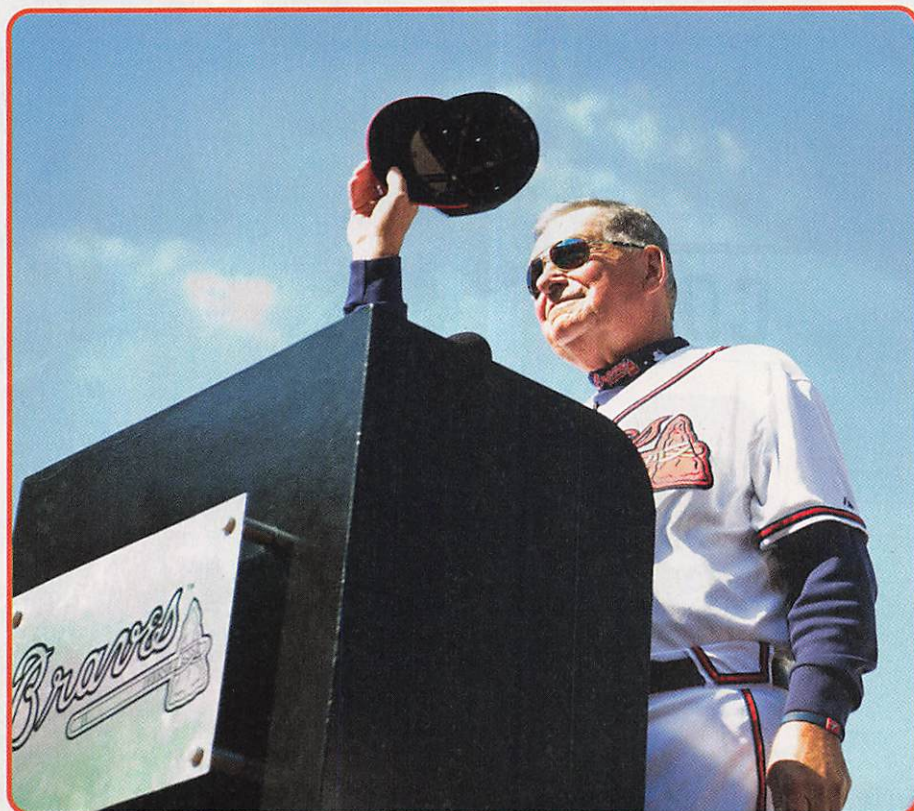
When the Braves secured the Wild Card, that left him with the most post-season appearances of any manager in major league history (16). Only Joe Torre (15), Tony La Russa (13) and Casey Stengel (10) join Cox in double figures.

Cox also accomplished something that has proven elusive throughout major league history by qualifying for post-season play in his final managerial season. Fifty managers have retired with at least 1,000 career victories, but no one else led his team to the post-season in his final campaign. Cox took this a step further. His club reached the playoffs in his last American League season, as well. His 1985 Blue Jays won the AL East, but lost the ALCS to the eventual World Champion Royals.

Cox's 2,504 regular season wins surpass all but three other managers: Connie Mack (3,731), John McGraw (2,763) and La Russa (2,638). His .566 winning percentage ranks 17th among managers with 1,000 or more career games. He posted a .576 percentage – 1,883 wins and 1,386 losses – after taking over the Braves in June 1990 through his retirement. His percentage increases to .581 (1,843-1,329) during his final 20 full seasons as Atlanta's manager, which stretched from the Worst-to-First 1991 season through this year.

Comparing Cox's won-lost record to those of other managers doesn't take long, since very few have spent 20 consecutive full seasons with the same team. McGraw (New York Giants), Mack (Philadelphia Athletics) and Walter Alston (Brooklyn/Los Angeles Dodgers) are the only three besides Cox. McGraw had the most successful 20-season run. He had a 1,836-1,182 mark and .608 winning percentage from 1904 through 1923. Cox (.581) topped Alston, who went 1,770-1,409 for a .557 percentage in his best 20-year time frame (1955-74). Mack, who managed for 53 total seasons and mixed in some bad years with his most successful ones, had just a .507 winning percentage in his top run (1901-20).

One other manager came extremely close to piloting a single club for 20 straight



Cox, saluting the crowd on a day in his honor, leads all managers in post-season appearances (16) and posted the best 20-year record (1991-2010) in the last 87 years.

seasons. Tommy Lasorda fell a half season short of 20 straight seasons with the Dodgers from 1977 through mid-season 1996. He had a .526 winning percentage in that timeframe, falling well short of Cox.

So, besides McGraw's tremendous run – which ended 87 years ago – no other manager has put together a comparable 20-year period of excellence like Bobby Cox.



The Braves had the best home record in the major leagues this season, going 56-25 at Turner Field for a .691 winning percentage. That matched the 1996, 1998 and 1999 clubs for the best home mark in franchise history. On the road, Atlanta was just 35-46, a .432 winning percentage. That produced the greatest home/road disparity in franchise history – a .259 difference between the two percentages.

The 1926 Boston Braves came next closest in franchise history, with a percentage difference of .251. They went 43-34 at home (.558 winning percentage) and 23-52 on the

road (.307). Just three other Braves teams surpassed a 200-percentage point difference – all came after the club moved to Atlanta: 1980 (.242), 1967 (.235) and 1977 (.235).

The extreme gap in this year's home and road records followed a season that produced exactly the opposite trend. The 2009 Braves had the third-lowest differential in franchise history. They actually had a better road winning percentage (.568) than home (.494), resulting in a -.074 differential.

Based on their runs scored and allowed figures, the Braves should have won more road games this season. They outscored the opposition 347 to 334 in away games, yet still went 35-46.

This year's team ranked fourth in the NL in runs scored at home (391) and seventh on the road (347). They allowed the fifth-fewest runs in home games (295), and placed fourth in runs allowed in away games (334).

Those numbers alone don't explain the large gap in Atlanta's home and road

records. It was the club's performance in tight games that had a major impact on this trend. The Braves dominated close games at Turner Field: winning an incredible 19 of their 24 one-run decisions. On the road, they inexplicably went 3-17 in one-run games.



Matching Jason Heyward's statistics to great Braves rookies from the past makes for some interesting comparisons. Players such as David Justice and Chipper Jones had sensational rookie seasons, but broke in at a later age than Heyward. Based on his age on June 30, this was Heyward's age-20 season. Former Braves sluggers Hank Aaron, Eddie Mathews, Bob Horner and Andruw Jones also played their rookie year as 20-year-olds.

Since these five players saw dramatically different playing time as rookies, it's best to match them in percentage categories. Heyward had the second-highest batting average (.277), behind only Aaron (.280). His .393 on-base percentage dominated the others, with Andruw Jones a distant second at .329. Horner topped everybody in slugging (.539), but Heyward (.456) placed second. Horner also edged Heyward in OPS, on-base



POUYA DANA/ATLANTA BRAVES

Jason Heyward put together one of the best seasons by a 20-year-old in Braves franchise history and also in baseball history, ranking with many current and future Hall of Famers in several categories.

plus slugging percentage (.852 to .849).

Heyward's numbers make his future look even more promising when compared to all players in major league history in their age-

20 season. His .393 on-base percentage ranked seventh among players with at least 400 plate appearances. He trailed five Hall of Famers in Mel Ott (.449), Ted Williams (.436), Al Kaline (.421), Jimmie Foxx (.416) and Mickey Mantle (.394), as well as current star Alex Rodriguez (.414).

Heyward placed 11th in OPS, 16th in slugging and tied for 15th in homers. In each case, current or future Hall of Famers filled most of the spots in front of him. Heyward also produced the third-highest walk total (91) by a major leaguer in his age-20 season. Only two of the game's all-time greatest outfielders walked more: Ott (113) and Williams (107).



Considering they had 45 come-from-behind victories and led the majors with 25 wins in their final at-bat, the Braves had a surprisingly low .238 batting average in the seventh inning or later. That placed just 12th among NL clubs.

Atlanta still found ways to score runs with the game on the line, as evidenced by its 266 runs scored from the seventh inning on. That figure led every NL team except the Reds (267). The Braves came up with the long ball when they needed it - their 51 home runs in the seventh inning or later tied for fifth in the NL. The other key was patience at the plate. No team drew as many walks (240) in the seventh inning or later.



POUYA DANA/ATLANTA BRAVES

The Braves were adept at rallying late to win games, creating many celebrations like this one when Brooks Conrad hit a walk-off grand slam to beat Cincinnati, 10-9, May 20.

BATTLE OF ATTRITION

Constant String Of Major Injuries Followed Team From April Into Playoffs

BY MARK BOWMAN OF MLB.COM

AT TIMES, the 2010 Braves looked like a team of destiny. By the time the clock struck midnight, though, their Cinderella story had been tarnished by far too many significant injuries.

When the Braves suffered three one-run losses to the Giants in the Division Series, they were left to wonder what might have been. Their attempt to provide Bobby Cox one more trip to the World Series before he retired seemed to be going well until Chipper Jones tore the ACL in his left knee on Aug. 10.

Three weeks earlier, the Braves owned the NL's best record. One month later, they would find themselves chasing the Phillies and attempting to claim the wild card berth, which they earned on the regular season's last day, six days after their most valuable player, Martin Prado, suffered his own season-ending injury.

Once closer Billy Wagner strained his left oblique in Game 2 of the NLDS, the Braves had lost too many players. But while the ultimate goal wasn't achieved, the season still proved to be a memorable one for the fans and a group of players that developed a special bond and showed an uncanny sense of resiliency.

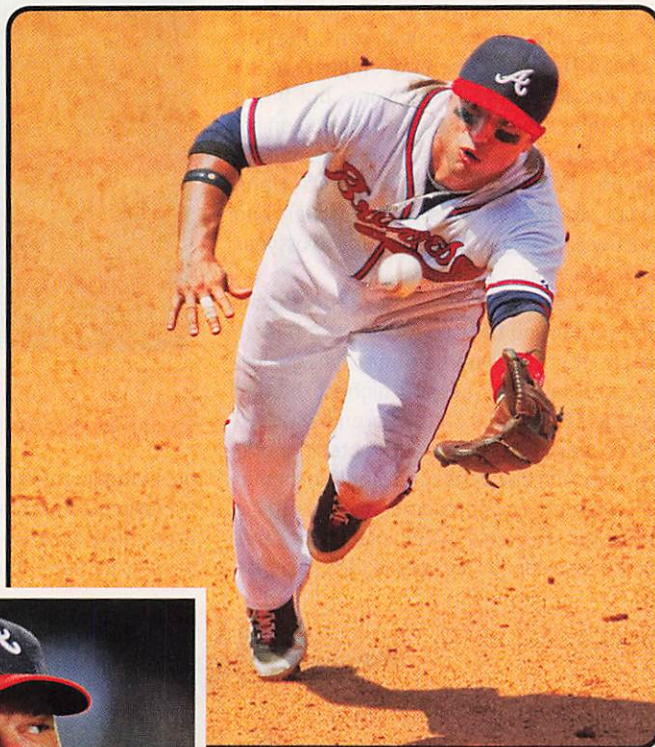
Jason Heyward began the season by hitting a three-run homer on Opening Day with the first swing of his highly anticipated major league career. As the end of April neared, the Braves were in the midst of a nine-game losing streak and providing little reason to believe they were capable of producing the 39-18 run that they enjoyed in the two months leading up to the All-Star break.

Once Prado moved into the leadoff role, a slumbering lineup found life and the uncanny knack to create thrilling late-inning excitement. Omar Infante, Brooks Conrad, Eric Hinske and David Ross proved to be valuable bench players, while 26-year-old catcher Brian McCann moved toward a fifth consecutive All-Star selection.

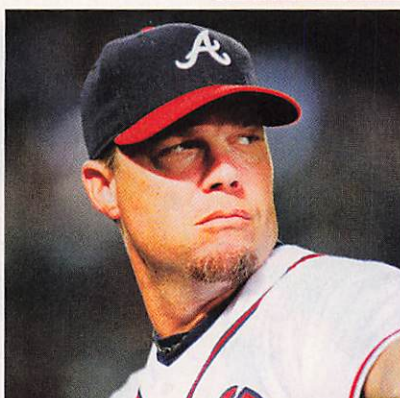
When the Braves gained a post-season berth, they couldn't overlook the contributions Troy Glaus made in May and June. But with Glaus' legs proving to be weak by the time August arrived, the Braves were forced to acquire Derrek Lee from the Cubs to play first base to give the middle-of-the-lineup presence that was lost when Jones was sidelined.

Nate McLouth's prolonged hitting struggles led the Braves to acquire centerfielder Rick Ankiel from the Royals at the July 31 trade deadline. Two weeks earlier, Frank Wren dealt Yunel Escobar and his attitude to the Blue Jays in exchange for talented shortstop Alex Gonzalez.

By the time August concluded, Infante had established himself as a legitimate everyday player, and the infield mix was completely different than the one the Braves used on Opening Day. But throughout



Third basemen were particularly hard hit by injuries, with Chipper Jones (L) suffering a torn ACL Aug. 10, and Martin Prado (above) falling victim to hip/oblique injuries Sept. 27.



the journey, the Braves were able to rely on the consistency of a starting rotation that was anchored by the rejuvenated Tim Hudson and a solid bullpen that greatly benefited from the emergence of rookie lefthander Jonny Venters.

At times, the club looked like a World Series contender. But by the time October arrived, it found itself with a different identity and without the optimism that was present before the injuries.

Record: 91-71, second in NL East.

Defining moment: Without Jones, the Braves persevered and at least carried some hope as October neared. But when Prado fell to the ground after hitting a chopper back to the mound in a Sept. 27 game against the Marlins, they essentially incurred their fatal blow. One inning earlier, the All-Star second baseman, who had moved to third base and the third spot of the lineup in Jones' absence, tore his left oblique muscle and suffered a hip pointer while making an acrobatic grab of a Dan Uggla liner. Suddenly, a weakened offense became too anemic to be productive against

the aces it encountered in the post-season.

What went right: Prado legitimized himself as an All-Star talent who could prove to be a valuable member of the Atlanta lineup for many years to come... Infante's versatility earned him a surprise All-Star selection and made him invaluable to a club that saw him prove productive at a variety of positions and in the leadoff spot once Prado began hitting third... Hudson looked like an ace once again, and Wagner headed into retirement with the satisfaction created by the best season of his storied career... Heyward looked like an offensive monster at times and also often provided the reminder that he is still just 21 years old... Venters established himself as one of the game's top setup men, and by the time the season concluded, both he and Craig Kimbrel gave reason to believe they could begin next season in the closer's role... With Hinske and backup catcher Ross providing great influence, this club fortified Wren's belief that good chemistry can significantly influence a club's performance.

What went wrong: The injury woes extended beyond the losses of Jones and Prado... Jair Jurrjens' bid to begin his career with a third straight successful season was erased by shoulder soreness in spring training, a hamstring injury that sidelined him for two months, and a knee injury that took him out of the rotation for the season's final two weeks... Just two years removed from being an All-Star in Pittsburgh, McLouth was forced to spend a month with Triple-A Gwinnett. Consequently, the Braves constantly found themselves looking for production from the center-field position... Though he struggled down the stretch and with a thumb injury that plagued him for more than two months, Heyward proved to be the club's most consistent outfielder... The pitching staff might have been even more impressive had the injury bug not also victimized the defense.

Biggest surprise: Few could have predicted Infante would become an All-Star who would qualify to rank third in the NL batting-title race. But even fewer could have predicted Venters would arrive in big league camp relatively unknown and then prove impressive enough to make 79 appearances, despite not being added to the Atlanta roster until the end of the season's second week. With his heavy sinker, Venters was both unique and invaluable.

AROUND BASEBALL

BY KEN ROSENTHAL



DUNN WILL COMMAND MARKET DEAL TO SIGN

THERE WAS STILL A CHANCE that the Nationals would sign first baseman **Adam Dunn**. The two sides planned to speak before Dunn, who hit 38 home runs and has averaged 40 homers over the past seven seasons, hit free agency. But Dunn, to bypass the chance to go to the highest bidder, probably would have required a market deal – say, four years for \$60 million. Much has been said about the Nationals' reluctance to commit to Dunn at first base. He is below-average defensively, but rates ahead of **Ryan Howard**, **Prince Fielder** and **Miguel Cabrera** in several advanced metrics.

Some in baseball believed that Yankees manager **Joe Girardi** irritated his front office and ownership by refusing to rule out the possibility of going to the Cubs. But such was not the case. The Yankees created uncertainty for Girardi by taking the same approach that they do with free-agent players, delaying his contract talks until the end of the season. They were not upset with Girardi for keeping his options open. "That's the way the world works," said Yankees general manager **Brian Cashman**.

Former Indians manager **Eric Wedge** interviewed for virtually every managerial opening, saying he was "burning" to get back into the dugout. "I've got all the desire in the world to manage again," Wedge said. "I took a year off to spend with my family, get refreshed physically, emotionally, everything else. I'm ready to dive back in head-first. And when I'm in, I'm all in." Wedge was 561-573 (.495) with the Indians, winning 96 games in 2007 and leading the team to the American League Championship Series.

Red Sox pitching coach **John Farrell** was another managerial candidate. The clause in his contract that prevented him from seeking a managing position only was in effect through the end of this season. The success of **Bud Black** with the Padres could make pitching coaches such as Farrell and the Reds' **Bryan Price** more attractive to teams looking for managers.

The Phillies, after clinching the NL East, recognized their three veterans who had never previously been to the post-season – **Roy Halladay**, **Mike Sweeney** and **Brian Schneider**. The team began its clubhouse celebration only after the veteran trio popped the first three champagne bottles. After that, the rest of the team joined in. Halladay, Sweeney and Schneider have played a combined 40 seasons.

The Red Sox gave third baseman **Mike Lowell** a proper farewell, honoring him in a ceremony at Fenway Park the day before the season ended. "I told my dad, 'I'm getting a better sendoff than (**Ken Griffey Jr.**) got,'" Lowell said. "He's going to the Hall of Fame. I might go into my high school Hall of Fame."

The Pirates' 2011 rotation is full of uncertainty, but their bullpen actually could be a strength. Righthanders **Evan Meek**, **Joel Hanrahan** and (former Brave) **Chris Resop** are formidable, and the expected return of (former Brave) **Jose Ascanio** and **Kevin Hart** from shoulder surgeries should make the bullpen that much stronger.

- KEN ROSENTHAL IS A SENIOR WRITER FOR FOXSPORTS.COM



ADVANCED CLASS A AFFILIATE RELOCATES TO LYNCHBURG

PAUL SUNWALL ALWAYS KNEW "Braves Country" included central Virginia. But even the long-time general manager of the Lynchburg Hillcats has been surprised with the increased level of excitement sifting throughout the region since Atlanta announced Calvin Falwell Field at Lynchburg City Stadium is the organization's new home for its Advanced Class A franchise.

"To say the baseball fans here are excited would be an understatement," said Sunwall, who has worked in the Lynchburg front office since 1980 and served as the team's GM since 1988. "Having watched the Braves for years on WTBS, I join a lot of people in feeling like I've grown up with the Braves. Based on the way Braves fans have been coming out of the woodwork since we signed the new working agreement, I wouldn't be a bit surprised to see a spike in our attendance."

The Braves and Lynchburg joined forces on Sept. 16 after the Myrtle Beach Pelicans announced they agreed to a new working agreement with the Texas Rangers. Chuck Greenberg, who has owned the Pelicans for the past four years, was part of the ownership group that was approved by Major League Baseball to purchase the Rangers this past summer. With Greenberg wanting to partner his two teams, the Braves were forced to look for a new affiliate after playing at Myrtle since 1999.

"Literally the first morning we were open to talk, I called Paul and said, 'We would love to come to Lynchburg,'" Atlanta GM Frank Wren told the gathering at a press conference on Sept. 24. "We wanted to stay in the Southeast and the Mid-Atlantic (region). All of that works really well for us, as far as the logistics for our players and staff. Plus, we like the Carolina League a lot. It's a great league to develop players. It fits our development scheme better than any other league."

Atlanta has fielded a team in the Carolina League since 1980, when the Braves began their affiliation with the re-born Durham Bulls. The Braves-Bulls relationship continued through the 1997 season before Durham was selected as one of the two cities for the Triple-A expansion, which coincided with the arrival of Tampa Bay and Arizona at the major league level. After a one-year stint at Danville in the CL, the Braves moved to a new ballpark in Myrtle Beach that opened in 1999.

Lynchburg, meanwhile, served as the Advanced Class A home of the Pittsburgh Pirates for 15 seasons, from 1995-2009. Prior to 2010, the Pirates purchased a franchise in the Florida State League that began play this past season at the team's spring training home in Bradenton. As a result, the

Cincinnati Reds fulfilled Pittsburgh's final year of its agreement with Lynchburg.

The Braves and Lynchburg agreed on a four-year contract through the 2014 season. The press conference attracted Braves representatives, including Wren, director of player development Kurt Kemp, assistant GM Bruce Manno, and director of baseball operations John Coppolella. Lynchburg mayor Joan F. Foster, city manager Kim Payne, Carolina League president John Hopkins, and Lynchburg Baseball Corporation chairman Calvin Falwell and president Rex Angel were among the others at the event.

The Hillcats have incorporated tomahawks with the team's logo while also adding the familiar Braves' symbol to their website, business cards, stationery and other items. According to Sunwall, Wren inquired about the possibility of the team changing its name to the Braves, but the GM cited the success in building the Hillcats brand over the past 16 seasons in wanting to maintain that connection.

"Frank understood our reasoning but wanted to ask," Sunwall said. "[Atlanta] owns the other three full-season teams, as well as Danville (in the Appalachian League), which is why those teams are known as the Braves. While we

haven't discussed it, there's always a chance that down the road we'd be willing to talk with Frank and the Braves about going in that direction here."

The Braves pride themselves in developing their young players in some of the best facilities in the minor leagues. That will continue to be the case in Lynchburg. Built in 1939, Lynchburg City Stadium received its first major overhaul in 1978 before a \$6.5 million renovation was finished just prior to the 2004 season. Lynchburg City Stadium received a new concourse, concession stands, chair-back seats, luxury boxes, scoreboard and videoboard.

According to Sunwall, the team is working with the city on making major improvements to the playing surface this off-season. The field has not been overhauled in approximately two decades.

"We're always looking to make improvements wherever we can, and that continues to be the case now that we're working with a great organization like the Braves," Sunwall said. "Braves fans in Myrtle Beach will still get to see the team when we make three trips there next season, but we're really looking forward to having the Braves here for all of our home games, beginning next April."



Kurt Kemp, the Braves' director of player development, was one of several Atlanta executives that took part in a press conference welcoming the team's farm club to Lynchburg, Va.

INSTRUCTIONAL LEAGUE

Less than two years ago, the lack of depth in the infield throughout the farm system was obvious. A combination of trades, attrition and promotions to the big leagues left the Braves light on top-flight talent around the horn, with the most glaring weakness at shortstop.

A pair of impressive drafts, especially scouting director Tony DeMacio's first this past June, along with several international signings has more than remedied that situation. In fact, based on the performance of the infielders during the second half of the 2010 season and throughout fall Instructional League in Florida, the Braves believe the infield in general and shortstop in particular has become a strength of the organization.

"This is the most talented group of infielders the Braves have had in many seasons," said Tom Shields, the Braves' infield coordinator. "The group we have now possesses great athletic ability and impressive baseball skills. That doesn't mean they're all going to become great major league players, but you have to like your odds when you're dealing with the depth that we have."

DeMacio contributed to the shortstop bounty by selecting Matt Lipka and Andrelton Simmons with two of the Braves' first three picks in the 2010 draft. The 35th overall pick taken in the supplemental first round, Lipka signed out of McKinney (Texas) High School and made an immediate impact in the Gulf Coast League before finishing his first taste of pro ball at rookie-level Danville. He continued to impress in Instructional League with a potent bat and good all-around actions in the field.

"Lipka is a bundle of energy," Shields said. "His arm actions are not those of your prototypical shortstop, but the more you watch him, the more you appreciate how efficient he is at the position."

Simmons, a second-round choice and the 70th overall selection, was drafted out of Western Oklahoma State Junior College. A native of Curacao, Simmons is also a high-energy player with a strong throwing arm. Scouts considered him the best fielding shortstop in the draft, and he's has lived up to that so far.

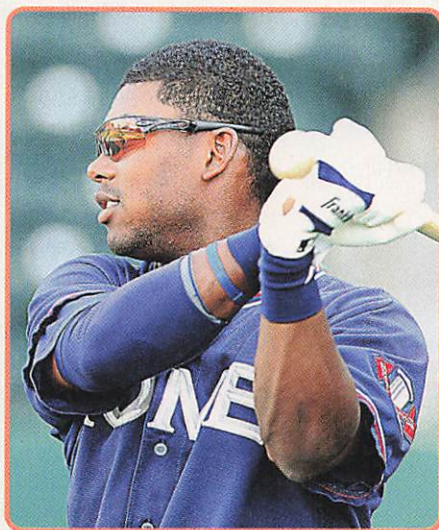
"He's the best natural shortstop I've worked with, and I believe he's the steal of the draft," Shields said. "He's a difference-maker on defense. The question is whether or not he'll hit, but I feel he will, because he puts the ball in play and he'll make the adjustments as he gets more experience."

Shields also has been impressed with Edward Salcedo, who signed with the

Braves just prior to spring training out of the Dominican Republic.

Due to the depth at shortstop, Elmer Reyes is playing second base. Reyes blossomed this past season in the Gulf Coast and Appalachian leagues. The Braves also moved Mycal Jones from shortstop to second base before a knee injury sidelined him during Instructional League.

"The early returns on Mycal indicate he's much more natural at second base," Shields said. "He's shown a special make-up since we drafted him (2009), and he wound up having an outstanding season while making two jumps last year. He brings a lot of athleticism to second base, and I believe he has a big future there."



A fourth-round draft pick in 2009, Mycal Jones has been shifted from shortstop to second base and is adapting well to his new position.

Second base is loaded with talent, as well. In addition to Reyes and Jones, the Braves are enthused with the play of Phil Gosselin, who was drafted in the fifth round in June. Gosselin saw most of his activity in the outfield at the University of Virginia before shifting to the infield this past summer at Class A Rome.

Kurt Kemp, the Braves' director of player development, said that Gosselin and catcher Christian Bethancourt put together the strongest performances in Instructional League among the position players, while Brett Oberholtzer, Paul Clemens and Luis Avilan stood out among the pitchers.

Bethancourt has had a carryover from the final month of the regular season, hitting the ball with more consistency. Oberholtzer's command has been outstanding, with his strikeouts-to-walks ratio hovering close to a remarkable 7-to-1

NOTES

- Outfielder **Matt Young** and third baseman **Wes Timmons**, roommates during the season at Gwinnett, are playing winter ball in Mexico.

- **Todd Redmond** has picked up where he left off last fall on the Team USA pitching staff in international competition. Redmond improved to 2-0 by working seven shutout innings and limiting Nicaragua to four hits in a 5-0 victory on Oct. 8 in the COPABE Pan American Qualifier in Puerto Rico. That performance gave Redmond a 1.42 ERA in two starts with the team, which qualified for the 2011 Pan American Games in Guadalajara, Mexico. Redmond pitched the past two seasons at Gwinnett.

- Outfielder **Cory Harrilchak** is one of four players in the Arizona Fall League writing a daily blog about his time there. Fans interested in reading Harrilchak's blogs can access them at <http://coryharrilchak.mlblogs.com>.

Harrilchak is playing for the Phoenix Desert Dogs under manager **Don Mattingly**, who was recently named to replace **Joe Torre** as manager of the Dodgers. Joining Harrilchak from the Atlanta organization are pitchers **Michael Broadway**, **Kyle Cofield**, **Erik Cordier** and **Cory Gearrin**, first baseman **Freddie Freeman**, shortstop **Tyler Pastornicky** and Gwinnett batting coach **Jamie Dismuke**.

- The Braves wasted no time in re-signing first baseman **Mauro Gomez** to a minor league contract.

Atlanta also signed pitchers **Wes Alsup** and **Nick Lobanov**.

- Trade publication Baseball America released its annual top 20 prospects for each minor league. Eleven Atlanta farmhands were ranked among the top players in their respective leagues, with left-handed pitcher **Carlos Perez** and right-handed pitcher **Julio Teheran** topping the charts in the Appalachian and Carolina leagues, respectively.

Other players recognized include first baseman **Freddie Freeman** (No. 5) in the International League; pitchers **Mike Minor** (No. 4) and **Brandon Beachy** (No. 17) in the Southern League; pitchers **Randall Delgado** (No. 6) and **J.J. Hoover** (No. 16) in the Carolina League; pitcher **Arodys Vizcaino** (No. 6) and catcher **Christian Bethancourt** (No. 14) in the South Atlantic League; shortstop **Andrelton Simmons** (No. 12) in the Appalachian League; and shortstop **Matt Lipka** (No. 5) in the Gulf Coast League. Teheran was named to the publication's first-team Minor League All-Star squad, while Beachy and Freeman were selected to the second team.



Batting Average (Min. 2.7 PA/Game)

Barbaro Canizares, 1B	Gwinnett	.341
Freddie Freeman, 1B	Gwinnett	.319
Elmer Reyes, 2B	Danville	.301
Matt Young, OF	Gwinnett	.300
Willie Cabrera, OF	Mississippi/Gwinnett	.298
Wes Timmons, 3B	Gwinnett	.293
Matt Lipka, SS	GCL/Danville	.288
Evan Gattis, C	Danville	.288
Cory Harrilchak, OF	Myrtle Beach/Rome	.287
Michael Jones, 1B	Myrtle Beach	.282

Home Runs

Freddie Freeman, 1B	Gwinnett	18
Cody Johnson, OF	Myrtle Beach/Mississippi	18
Mitch Jones, OF	Gwinnett	18
Mauro Gomez, 1B	Mississippi	16
Mycal Jones, SS	Miss/MB/Rome	15
Joe Thurston, INF	Gwinnett	13
Barbaro Canizares, 1B	Gwinnett	13
Gerardo Rodriguez, OF	Myrtle Beach	13
Donell Linares, 3B	Mississippi	11
Dan Nelson, INF	Myrtle Beach/Mississippi	10

RBIs

Freddie Freeman, 1B	Gwinnett	87
Mauro Gomez, 1B	Mississippi	80
Barbaro Canizares, 1B	Gwinnett	77
Joe Thurston, INF	Gwinnett	67
Eric Duncan, INF	Mississippi	64
Willie Cabrera, OF	Mississippi/Gwinnett	58
Mycal Jones, SS	Rome/MBeach/Mississippi	56
Cody Johnson, OF	Mississippi/Myrtle Beach	56

Runs

Matt Young, OF	Gwinnett	88
Mycal Jones, SS	Rome/MBeach/Mississippi	83
Freddie Freeman, 1B	Gwinnett	73
Tyler Pastornicky, SS	Mississippi	72
Dan Nelson, INF	MBeach/Mississippi/Gwinnett	71
Mauro Gomez, 1B	Mississippi	67
Wes Timmons, 3B	Gwinnett	67
Wilkin Ramirez, OF	Gwinnett	65

Stolen Bases

Matt Young, OF	Gwinnett	39
Tyler Pastornicky, SS	Mississippi	35
L.V. Ware, OF	Myrtle Beach/Mississippi	30
Kyle Rose, OF	Rome	29
Cole Miles, OF	Myrtle Beach/Mississippi	27
Antoan Richardson, OF	Mississippi/Gwinnett	27
Cory Harrilchak, OF	Rome/Myrtle Beach	22
Mycal Jones, SS	Rome/MBeach/Mississippi	22
Matt Lipka, SS	GCL/Danville	21
Wes Timmons, 3B	Gwinnett	19

On Base Pct. (Min. 250 PA)

Barbaro Canizares, 1B	Gwinnett	.403
Wes Timmons, 3B	Gwinnett	.400
Matt Young, OF	Gwinnett	.380

Freddie Freeman, 1B	Gwinnett	.378
Elmer Reyes, 2B	GCL/Danville	.363
Willie Cabrera, OF	Mississippi/Gwinnett	.359
Dan Nelson, INF	MBeach/Mississippi/Gwinnett	.356
Cory Harrilchak, OF	Rome/Myrtle Beach	.354
Mauro Gomez, 1B	Mississippi	.349
Matt Lipka, SS	GCL/Danville	.344

Doubles

Mauro Gomez, 1B	Mississippi	42
Willie Cabrera, OF	Mississippi/Gwinnett	38
Freddie Freeman, 1B	Gwinnett	35
Matt Young, OF	Gwinnett	33
Mycal Jones, SS	Rome/MBeach/Mississippi	31
Barbaro Canizares, 1B	Gwinnett	28
Cory Harrilchak, OF	Rome/Myrtle Beach	26
Dan Nelson, INF	MBeach/Mississippi/Gwinnett	24
Wes Timmons, 3B	Gwinnett	23

Triples

Cole Miles, OF	Myrtle Beach/Mississippi	10
Cory Harrilchak, OF	Rome/Myrtle Beach	8
Wilkin Ramirez, OF	Gwinnett	7
Chris Curley, INF	Danville/Rome/Myrtle Beach	6
L.V. Ware, OF	Rome/MBeach/Mississippi	6
Eric Duncan, INF	Mississippi	5
Matt Young, OF	Gwinnett	5
Luis Bolivar, INF	Gwinnett	4
Ramon Flores, OF	Danville/Rome	4
Phil Gosselin, 2B	Rome/Myrtle Beach	4
Gerardo Rodriguez, OF	Myrtle Beach	4
Matt Lipka, SS	GCL/Danville	4
Edwin Salcedo, SS	DSL/Rome	4
Luis Sumoza, OF	Myrtle Beach	4
Joe Thurston, INF	Gwinnett	4

Walks

Wes Timmons, 3B	Gwinnett	60
Matt Young, OF	Gwinnett	57
Tyler Pastornicky, SS	Mississippi	55
Dan Nelson, INF	MBeach/Mississippi/Gwinnett	52
Mauro Gomez, 1B	Mississippi	46
Jordan Kreke, INF	Rome/Myrtle Beach	46
Antoan Richardson, OF	Mississippi/Gwinnett	46
Freddie Freeman, 1B	Gwinnett	43
Mycal Jones, SS	Rome/MBeach/Mississippi	43
Wilkin Ramirez, OF	Gwinnett	42

Slugging Pct. (Min. 235 ABs)

Freddie Freeman, 1B	Gwinnett	.521
Barbaro Canizares, 1B	Gwinnett	.504
Elmer Reyes, 2B	GCL/Danville	.472
Mauro Gomez, 1B	Mississippi	.471
Wilkin Ramirez, OF	Gwinnett	.458
Willie Cabrera, OF	Mississippi/Gwinnett	.439
Dan Nelson, INF	MBeach/Mississippi/Gwinnett	.427
Mycal Jones, SS	Rome/MBeach/Mississippi	.421
Joe Thurston, INF	Gwinnett	.413
Daniel Falcon, 1B/OF	GCL/Danville	.408

ERA (Min. 0.8 IP/G)

Brandon Beachy, RH	Mississippi/Gwinnett	1.73
Julio Teheran, RH	Rome/MBeach/Mississippi	2.59
Cory Rasmus, RH	Rome/Myrtle Beach	3.18
J.J. Hoover, RH	Myrtle Beach/Mississippi	3.29
Randall Delgado, RH	Myrtle Beach/Mississippi	3.30
Mike Minor, LH	Mississippi/Gwinnett	3.44
Scott Diamond, LH	Mississippi/Gwinnett	3.46
Brett Oberholtzer, LH	Rome/Myrtle Beach	3.78
Erik Cordier, RH	Mississippi/Gwinnett	3.82
Kyle Farrell, RH	Danville	4.04

Wins

J.J. Hoover, RH	Myrtle Beach/Mississippi	14
Erik Cordier, RH	Mississippi/Gwinnett	12
Tim Gustafson, RH	Gwinnett/Mississippi	11
Julio Teheran, RH	Rome/MBeach/Mississippi	9
Todd Redmond, RH	Gwinnett	9
Arodys Vizcaino, RH	Rome/Myrtle Beach	9
Willie Kempf, RH	GCL/Danville/Rome	8
Randall Delgado, RH	Myrtle Beach/Mississippi	8
Scott Diamond, LH	Mississippi/Gwinnett	8
Jacob Thompson, RH	Mississippi	8

Strikeouts

Randall Delgado, RH	Myrtle Beach/Mississippi	162
Julio Teheran, RH	Rome/MBeach/Mississippi	159
J.J. Hoover, RH	Myrtle Beach/Mississippi	152
Brandon Beachy, RH	Mississippi/Gwinnett	148
Mike Minor, LH	Mississippi/Gwinnett	146
Todd Redmond, RH	Gwinnett	142
Brett Oberholtzer, LH	Rome/Myrtle Beach	126
Scott Diamond, LH	Mississippi/Gwinnett	123
Chris Masters, LH	Rome	123
Erik Cordier, RH	Mississippi/Gwinnett	117

Innings

Todd Redmond, RH	Gwinnett	162.2
Randall Delgado, RH	Myrtle Beach/Mississippi	161.0
Scott Diamond, LH	Mississippi/Gwinnett	158.2
J.J. Hoover, RH	Myrtle Beach/Mississippi	153.1
Matt Crim, LH	Myrtle Beach	149.2
Erik Cordier, RH	Mississippi/Gwinnett	143.2
Julio Teheran, RH	Rome/MBeach/Mississippi	142.2
Brett Oberholtzer, LH	Rome/Myrtle Beach	135.2
Jacob Thompson, RH	Mississippi	131.2
Jose Ortigano, LH	Myrtle Beach/Gwinnett	131.0

WHIP (Walks + Hits per IP) (min. 25 IP)

Brandon Beachy, RH	Mississippi/Gwinnett	1.01
Julio Teheran, RH	Rome/MBeach/Mississippi	1.04
Randall Delgado, RH	Myrtle Beach/Mississippi	1.10
Mike Minor, LH	Mississippi/Gwinnett	1.16
Lucas LaPoint, RH	Danville	1.21
Todd Redmond, RH	Gwinnett	1.23
Brett Oberholtzer, LH	Rome/Myrtle Beach	1.24
J.J. Hoover, RH	Myrtle Beach/Mississippi	1.25
Cory Rasmus, RH	Rome/Myrtle Beach	1.30
Williams Perez, RH	GCL	1.36

Opponents Batting Avg. (min. 25 IP)

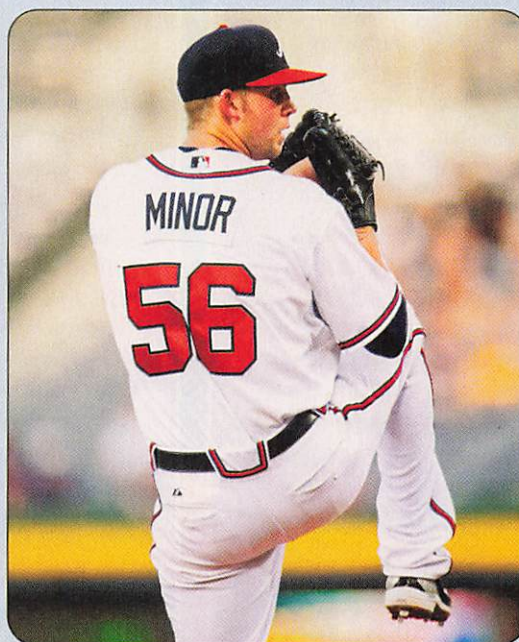
Julio Teheran, RH	Rome/MBeach/Mississippi	.208
Brandon Beachy, RH	Mississippi/Gwinnett	.211
Randall Delgado, RH	Myrtle Beach/Mississippi	.214
Mike Minor, LH	Mississippi/Gwinnett	.217
Erik Cordier, RH	Mississippi/Gwinnett	.236
J.J. Hoover, RH	Myrtle Beach/Mississippi	.239
Cory Rasmus, RH	Rome/Myrtle Beach	.244
Todd Redmond, RH	Gwinnett	.250
Chris Masters, LH	Rome	.256

Saves

Craig Kimbrel, RH	Gwinnett	23
Stephen Marek, RH	Mississippi/Gwinnett	13
Juan Abreu, RH	Myrtle Beach/Mississippi	12
Luis Avlian, LH	Myrtle Beach	9
Lee Hyde, LH	Mississippi/Gwinnett	8
Michael Dunn, LH	Gwinnett	7
Kyle Mertins, RH	GCL/Danville	6
Dalton Acord, RH	Danville/Rome	5
Thomas Berryhill, RH	Rome/Myrtle Beach	5
David Hale, RH	Rome	5
Benino Pruneda, RH	Myrtle Beach/Mississippi	5
Nate Russ, RH	GCL/Danville	5

Walks Per 9 IP (Min. 20 IP)

Kyle Farrell, RH	Danville	0.97
Arodys Vizcaino, RH	Rome/Myrtle Beach	1.27
Willie Kempf, RH	GCL/Danville/Rome	1.33
Lucas La Point, RH	Danville	1.44
Ryan Weber, RH	Danville/Rome	1.51
Brett Oberholtzer, LH	Rome/Myrtle Beach	1.53
Zeke Spruill, RH	Myrtle Beach	1.85
Dan Jurik, RH	GCL/Danville/Rome	1.97
Ian Marshall, RH	GCL/Danville	2.05
Brandon Beachy, RH	Mississippi/Gwinnett	2.11



Mike Minor

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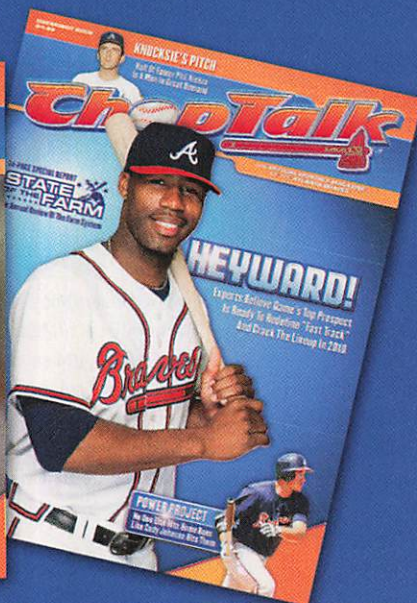
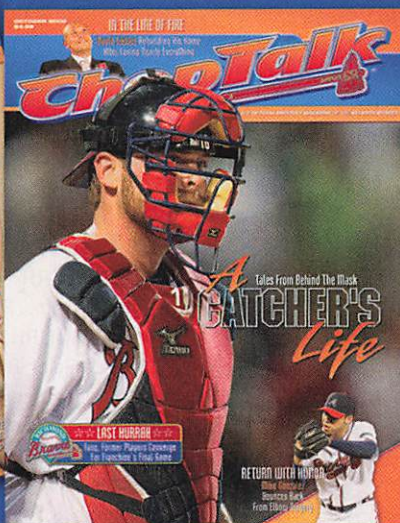
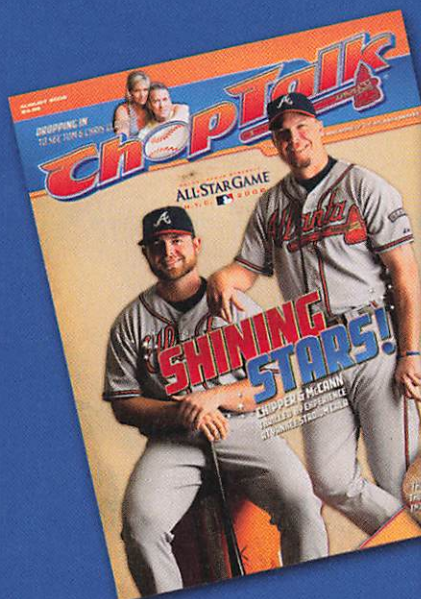


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April 2005 Starting Rotation
May 2005 Andruw Jones
June 2005 Tim Hudson
July 2005 Kyle Davies
August 2005 Johnson & Langerhans
September 2005 Jeff Francoeur
October 2005 Andruw Jones
November 2005 Brian McCann
December 2005 Andruw Jones
January 2006 Edgar Renteria
February 2006 Niekro, Aaron, Lemaster
March 2006 LaRoche Family
April 2006 Andruw, Smoltz, Chipper
May 2006 Chris Reitsma
June 2006 Francoeur's Slam
July 2006 Edgar Renteria
August 2006 Brian McCann
September 2006 Bob Wickman
October 2006 John Smoltz
November 2006 Bobby Cox
December 2006 Jeff Francoeur
January 2007 Rafael Soriano

February 2007 Spring Training
March 2007 Mike Gonzalez
April 2007 Andruw Jones (Sold Out)
May 2007 Hubbard & Johnson (Sold Out)
June 2007 John Smoltz
July 2007 Diaz & Harris
August 2007 Edgar Renteria
September 2007 Mark Teixeira
October 2007 Jeff Francoeur
November 2007 Chipper Jones
December 2007 John Smoltz
January 2008 Tom Glavine
February 2008 Tim Hudson
March 2008 Mark Kotsay
April 2008 Teixeira & Jones
May 2008 Brian McCann
June 2008 Jair Jurrjens
July 2008 Chipper Jones
August 2008 McCann & Jones
September 2008 Skip Caray
October 2008 Brian McCann
November 2008 Chipper Jones
December 2008 Pete Van Wieren

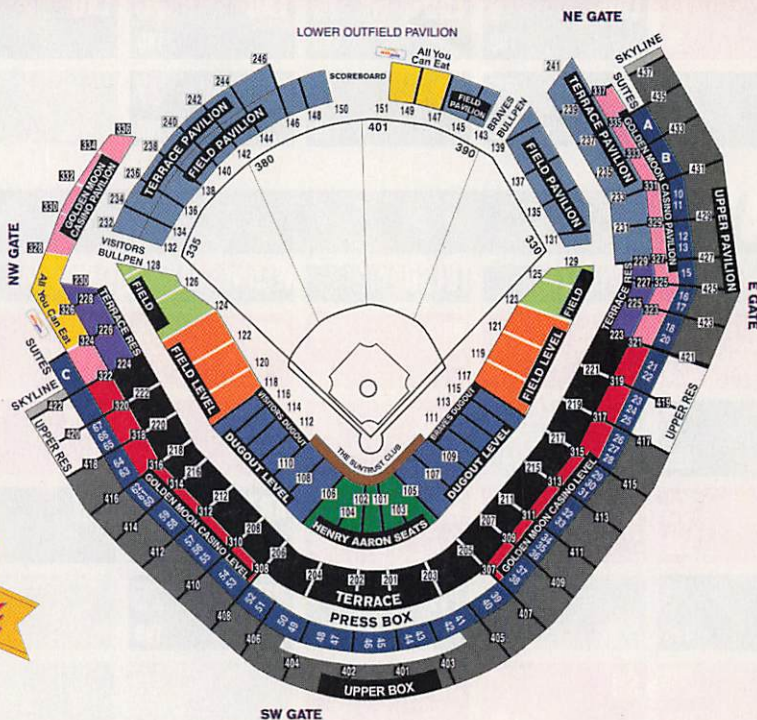
January 2009 Frank Wren
February 2009 Hank Aaron
March 2009 Derek Lowe
April 2009 Vazquez, Lowe & Kawakami
May 2009 Bobby Cox & Chipper Jones
June 2009 Jeff Francoeur
July 2009 Nate McLouth
August 2009 Tommy Hanson
September 2009 Martin Prado
October 2009 Yunel Escobar
November 2009 Peter Moylan
December 2009 Jason Heyward
January 2010 Billy Wagner
February 2010 Jair Jurrjens
March 2010 Derek Lowe
April 2010 Bobby Cox
May 2010 Jason Heyward
June 2010 Martin Prado
July 2010 Tim Hudson
August 2010 Brian McCann
September 2010 Brooks Conrad
October 2010 Omar Infante

TICKET INFO

The Braves had not announced 2011 ticket information at press time. However, deposits of \$250 per seat are being accepted for season tickets at braves.com. Inquire about deposits on partial season tickets and other plans, including group seats, suites and hospitality area space.

SPRING TRAINING

No ticket or schedule information was available at press time for Braves spring training at ESPN Wide World of Sports in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. Watch future issues of ChopTalk or call (407) 939-GAME (4263) for information or visit disneyworldsports.disney.go.com or braves.com. The Braves usually report to spring training in mid-February and begin playing exhibition games at the end of February.



MUSEUM & TOUR INFO

The Ivan Allen Jr. Braves Museum features more than 600 Braves artifacts that trace the team's history from its beginnings in Boston (1871-1952) to Milwaukee (1953-65) to Atlanta (1966-present). It is located on the northwest side of Turner Field at aisle 134. The museum opens two and a half hours before each game and closes in the middle of the seventh inning. The museum is open year-round and is the starting point of one-hour guided tours of Turner Field. Tours leave on the hour.

Tour reservations are not necessary for individuals or groups of less than 20 people. Tickets can be purchased the day of the tour at the main ticket window. Free parking in the Green lot.

Admission to the museum during games is one token (\$2) and \$5 on non-game days. Tour tickets are \$12 for adults, \$7 for children and \$10 for groups of 20 or more. Walk-up tickets can be purchased at the ticket window. Groups of 20 or more and school groups must make reservations two weeks in advance by calling (404) 614-2311.

HOURS OF OPERATION OCTOBER-MARCH

MONDAY - SATURDAY	10 A.M. - 2 P.M.
NOV. 27	CLOSED
DEC. 23-JAN. 2	CLOSED
JAN. 19	CLOSED

APRIL - OCTOBER

Monday - Saturday	9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Sunday	1 - 3 p.m.

TOUR TICKETS

ADULTS	\$12
CHILDREN 13 AND UNDER	\$7
MILITARY	\$7
GROUP	\$10

SCHOOL GROUP PRICES

CHILDREN	\$5
ADULTS	\$7

*Subject to change
Tours not available when the Braves have afternoon home games

Tentative and subject to change
Game times and broadcast information to be determined, except where noted.



2011 SCHEDULE

MARCH | APRIL

MARCH | APRIL

HOME

AWAY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		MINN 29 (Exhibition) 7:00	MINN 30 (Exhibition) 12:00	WAS 31 (Season Opener) TBD	1	WAS 2 TBD
WAS 3 TBD	MIL 4 TBD	MIL 5 TBD	MIL 6 TBD	MIL 7 TBD	PHI 8 (Home Opener) 7:30	PHI 9 7:00
PHI 10 1:30	11	FLA 12 7:00	FLA 13 7:00	FLA 14 7:00	NYM 15 7:30	NYM 16 7:00
NYM 17 1:30	LAD 18 TBD	LAD 19 TBD	LAD 20 TBD	LAD 21 TBD	SF 22 TBD	SF 23 TBD
SF 24 TBD	SD 25 TBD	SD 26 TBD	SD 27 TBD	28	STL 29 7:30	STL 30 7:00

MAY

MAY

HOME

AWAY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
STL 1 1:30	MIL 2 7:00	MIL 3 7:00	MIL 4 7:00	MIL 5 7:00	PHI 6 TBD	PHI 7 TBD
PHI 8 TBD	9	WAS 10 7:00	WAS 11 7:00	WAS 12 7:00	PHI 13 7:30	PHI 14 7:00
PHI 15 1:30	HOU 16 7:00	HOU 17 1:00	ARZ 18 TBD	ARZ 19 TBD	LAA 20 TBD	LAA 21 TBD
LAA 22 TBD	23	PIT 24 TBD	PIT 25 TBD	26	CIN 27 7:30	CIN 28 7:00
CIN 29 1:30	SD 30 1:00	SD 31 7:00				

JUNE

JUNE

HOME

AWAY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			SD 1 7:00		NYM 3 TBD	NYM 4 TBD
NYM 5 TBD		FLA 7 TBD	FLA 8 TBD	FLA 9 TBD	HOU 10 TBD	HOU 11 TBD
HOU 12 TBD	HOU 13 TBD	NYM 14 7:00	NYM 15 7:00	NYM 16 7:00	TEX 17 7:30	TEX 18 7:00
TEX 19 1:30	TOR 20 7:00	TOR 21 7:00	TOR 22 1:00		SD 24 TBD	SD 25 TBD
SD 26 TBD	SEA 27 TBD	SEA 28 TBD	SEA 29 TBD			

JULY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
BAL 3	COL 4	COL 5	COL 6	COL 7	PHI 8	BAL 1
PHI 10	11	ALL-STAR 12 GAME @ ARI	13	14	WAS 15	WAS 16
WAS 17	COL 18	COL 19	COL 20	COL 21	CIN 22	CIN 23
CIN 24	PIT 25	PIT 26	PIT 27	PIT 28	FLA 29	FLA 30
FLA 31						

HOME AWAY

AUGUST

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	WAS 1	WAS 2	WAS 3		NYM 5	NYM 6
NYM 7	FLA 8	FLA 9	FLA 10	11	CHC 12	CHC 13
CHC 14	SF 15	SF 16	SF 17	SF 18	ARI 19	ARI 20
ARI 21	CHC 22	CHC 23	CHC 24	CHC 25	NYM 26	NYM 27
NYM 28	29	WAS 30	WAS 31			

HOME AWAY

SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				WAS 1	LAD 2	LAD 3
LAD 4	PHI 5	PHI 6	PHI 7	8	STL 9	STL 10
STL 11	FLA 12	FLA 13	FLA 14	15	NYM 16	NYM 17
NYM 18	FLA 19	FLA 20	FLA 21	22	WAS 23	WAS 24
WAS 25	PHI 26	PHI 27	PHI 28	29	30	

HOME AWAY

INDIVIDUAL STATS

FINAL

	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	TB	BB	SO	SB	CS	OBP	SLG	E
BATTERS																	
INFANTE	.321	134	471	65	151	15	3	8	47	196	29	62	7	6	.359	.416	16
PRADO	.307	140	599	100	184	40	3	15	66	275	40	86	5	3	.350	.459	11
ROSS	.289	59	121	15	35	13	2	2	28	58	20	28	0	1	.392	.479	4
*LEE	.287	39	129	17	37	14	0	3	24	60	21	33	0	0	.384	.465	1
HEYWARD	.277	142	520	83	144	29	5	18	72	237	91	128	11	6	.393	.456	6
McCANN	.269	143	479	63	129	25	0	21	77	217	74	98	5	2	.375	.453	14
JONES	.265	95	317	47	84	21	0	10	46	135	61	47	5	0	.381	.426	10
RIGHT	.245		110		27	5	0	4	9	44	21	14			.366	.400	
LEFT	.275		207		57	16	0	6	37	91	40	33			.388	.440	
HINSKE	.256	131	281	38	72	21	1	11	51	128	33	75	0	0	.338	.456	2
CABRERA	.255	147	458	50	117	27	3	4	42	162	42	64	7	1	.317	.354	4
RIGHT	.233		146		34	9	1	1	9	48	16	18			.313	.329	
LEFT	.266		312		83	18	2	3	33	114	26	46			.320	.365	
CONRAD	.250	103	156	31	39	11	1	8	33	76	16	45	5	1	.324	.487	8
RIGHT	.278		36		10	3	0	1	9	16	5	11			.366	.444	
LEFT	.242		120		29	8	1	7	24	60	11	34			.311	.500	
DIAZ	.250	84	224	27	56	17	2	7	31	98	13	44	3	1	.302	.438	2
GLAUS	.240	128	412	52	99	18	0	16	71	165	63	100	0	0	.344	.400	9
*GONZALEZ	.240	72	267	27	64	17	2	6	38	103	14	53	0	2	.291	.386	8
*ANKIEL	.210	47	119	17	25	6	1	2	9	39	19	42	2	1	.324	.328	2
McLOUTH	.190	85	242	30	46	12	1	6	24	78	33	57	7	2	.298	.322	2
FREEMAN	.167	20	24	3	4	1	0	1	1	8	0	8	0	0	.167	.333	0
HERNANDEZ	.111	20	9	5	1	0	0	1	1	4	0	4	0	0	.111	.444	0
HICKS	.000	16	5	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	.167	.000	0
BOSCAN	.000	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1.000	.000	0
ATLANTA	.258	162	5,463	738	1,411	312	25	139	699	2,190	634	1,140	63	29	.339	.401	126
OPPONENTS	.246	162	5,396	629	1,326	262	32	126	596	2,030	505	1,241	102	44	.314	.376	103

PINCH-HITTERS (AVG-H-HR-RBI) Heyward (.667-2-0-2), Jones (.429-3-0-3), McLouth (.429-3-0-0), Cabrera (.333-4-0-0), Ankiel (.333-1-0-0), Hinske (.298-14-3-12), McCann (.273-3-1-5), Infante (.250-3-0-1), Conrad (.224-13-3-12), Diaz (.217-5-1-3), Freeman (.182-2-1-1), Glaus (.133-2-0-0), Hernandez (.125-1-1-1), Hicks (.000-0-0-0), Ross (.000-0-0-2), Lee (.000-0-0-0). **TEAM** (.250-57-10-42).

PITCHERS (AVG-H-HR-RBI) Beachy (.200-1-0-0), Hudson (.195-15-0-4), Medlen (.185-5-0-2), Lowe (.151-8-0-3), Jurrjens (.128-5-0-2), Kawakami (.125-3-0-1), Hanson (.097-6-0-4), Minor (.000-0-0-0), Martinez (.000-0-0-0), Dunn (.000-0-0-0), Saito (.000-0-0-0), Venter (.000-0-0-0). **STAFF** (.078-43-0-16).

KEY

AVG-Batting average, SLG-Slugging percentage, OBP-On-base percentage, G-Games, AB-At-bats, R-Runs, H-Hits, 2B-Doubles, 3B-Triples, HR-Home runs, RBI-Runs batted in, TB-Total bases, BB-Walks, SO-Strikeouts, SB-Stolen bases, CS-Caught stealing, E-Errors, W-L-Wins-Losses, ERA-Earned run average, GS-Starts, GF-Games finished, SV-Saves, IP-Innings pitched, HB-Hit batters, WP-Wild pitches, OBA-Opponents' batting average.

	W-L	ERA	G	GS	GF	SV	IP	H	R	ER	HR	HB	BB	SO	WP	OBA
PITCHERS																
KIMBREL	4-0	0.44	21	0	7	1	20.2	9	2	1	0	0	16	40	4	.125
WAGNER	7-2	1.43	71	0	64	37	69.1	38	14	11	5	3	22	104	2	.159
DUNN	2-0	1.89	25	0	5	0	19	15	4	4	1	0	17	27	2	.211
VENTERS	4-4	1.95	79	0	17	1	83	61	30	18	1	8	39	93	4	.204
O'FLAHERTY	3-2	2.45	56	0	7	0	44	37	14	12	2	1	18	36	3	.230
HUDSON	17-9	2.83	34	34	0	0	228.2	189	74	72	20	9	74	139	5	.229
SAITO	2-3	2.83	56	0	14	1	54	41	20	17	4	0	17	69	2	.203
MOYLAN	6-2	2.97	85	0	7	1	63.2	53	24	21	5	2	37	52	3	.236
BEACHY	0-2	3.00	3	3	0	0	15	16	9	5	0	0	7	15	1	.267
HANSON	10-11	3.33	34	34	0	0	202.2	182	86	75	14	14	56	173	3	.239
MEDLEN	6-2	3.68	31	14	5	0	107.2	108	48	44	13	3	21	83	1	.267
LOWE	16-12	4.00	33	33	0	0	193.2	204	88	86	18	4	61	136	4	.273
JURRJENS	7-6	4.64	20	20	0	0	116.1	120	63	60	13	2	42	86	2	.270
MARTINEZ	0-0	4.85	18	0	8	0	26	28	14	14	3	0	6	22	1	.272
KAWAKAMI	1-10	5.15	18	16	1	0	87.1	98	57	50	10	1	32	59	4	.284
*FARNSWORTH	0-2	5.40	23	0	6	0	20	15	12	12	0	0	7	25	1	.208
MINOR	3-2	5.98	9	8	1	0	40.2	53	28	27	6	1	11	43	0	.314
PROCTOR	0-0	6.35	6	0	2	0	5.2	4	4	4	1	0	4	6	0	.200
ATLANTA	91-71	3.56	162	162	160	41	1,439.1	1,326	629	569	126	49	505	1,241	42	.246
OPPONENTS	71-91	4.13	162	162	158	37	1,430.2	1,411	738	656	139	51	634	1,140	55	.258

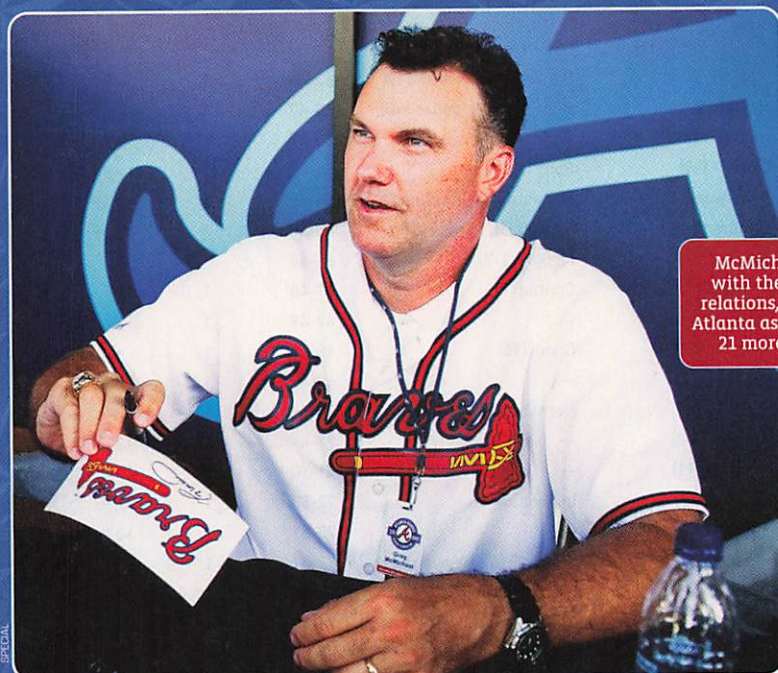
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BY GAME

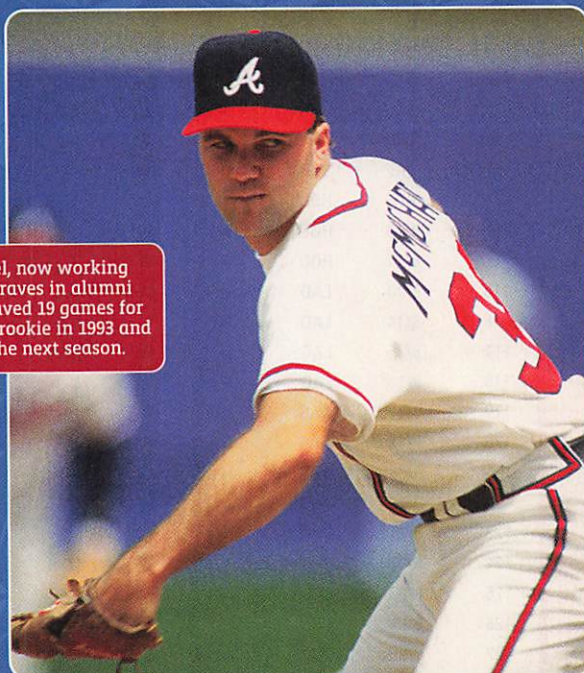
GAME	DATE	OPP	H/A	W-L	SCORE	W/L PITCHER	ATL HRs	REC	POS	GB
1	4/5	CHC	H	W	16-5	Lowe (1-0)	Heyward (1), McCann (1)	1-0	T-1	—
2	4/7	CHC	H	W	3-2	Moylan (1-0)	Jones (1)	2-0	T-1	—
3	4/8	CHC	H	L	0-2	Hanson (0-1)	—	2-1	T-1	—
4	4/9	SF	A	L	4-5 (13)	Medlen (0-1)	—	2-2	3	-1
5	4/10	SF	A	W	7-2	Lowe (2-0)	Heyward (2)	3-2	2	-1
6	4/11	SF	A	L	3-6	Kawakami (0-1)	McCann (2), Heyward (3)	3-3	3	-2
7	4/12	SD	A	L	2-17	Jurrjens (0-1)	—	3-4	3	-3
8	4/14	SD	A	W	6-1	Hanson (1-1)	Glaus (1)	4-4	3	-3
9	4/15	SD	A	W	6-2	Hudson (1-0)	Prado (1)	5-4	T-2	-2
10	4/16	COL	H	W	9-5	Lowe (3-0)	Jones (2)	6-4	2	-2
11	4/17	COL	H	L	0-4	Kawakami (0-2)	--	6-5	T-3	-2
12	4/18	COL	H	W	4-3	O'Flaherty (1-0)	--	7-5	3	-1
13	4/20	PHI	H	W	4-3 (10)	Wagner (1-0)	Glaus (2), Heyward (4), McLouth (1)	8-5	1	T-1
14	4/21	PHI	H	L	0-2	Hudson (1-1)	--	8-6	2	-1
15	4/22	PHI	H	L	3-8	Lowe (3-1)	--	8-7	3	-2
16	4/23	NYM	A	L	2-5	Kawakami (0-3)	--	8-8	4	-2
17	4/24	NYM	A	L	1-3	Jurrjens (0-2)	--	8-9	5	-3
18	4/25	NYM	A	L	0-1	Hanson (1-2)	--	8-10	5	-3
19	4/26	STL	A	L	3-4	Saito (0-1)	--	8-11	5	-3
20	4/27	STL	A	L	4-5	Lowe (3-2)	--	8-12	5	-3 ½
21	4/28	STL	A	L	0-6	Kawakami (0-4)	--	8-13	5	-4 ½
22	4/29	STL	A	L	4-10	Jurrjens (0-3)	Heyward (5)	8-14	5	-4 ½
23	4/30	HOU	H	W	4-2	Hanson (2-2)	McLouth (2), Heyward (6)	9-14	5	-5
24	5/1	HOU	H	W	10-1	Hudson (2-1)	Heyward (7)	10-14	5	-4
25	5/2	HOU	H	W	7-1	Lowe (4-2)	--	11-14	5	-3 ½
26	5/4	WAS	A	L	3-6	Kawakami (0-5)	Heyward (8)	11-15	5	-4
27	5/5	WAS	A	W	7-6 (10)	Medlen (1-1)	Infante (1)	12-15	5	-4
28	5/6	WAS	A	L	2-3 (10)	O'Flaherty (1-1)	--	12-16	5	-5
29	5/7	PHI	A	L	0-7	Lowe (4-3)	--	12-17	5	-6
30	5/8	PHI	A	W	4-1	O'Flaherty (2-1)	--	13-17	5	-5
31	5/9	PHI	A	L	3-5	Kawakami (0-6)	--	13-18	5	-6
32	5/10	MIL	A	W	8-2	Hanson (3-2)	Glaus (3), Prado (2)	14-18	5	-6
33	5/11	MIL	A	W	11-3	Hudson (3-1)	Glaus (4), Conrad (1)	15-18	5	-5 ½
34	5/12	MIL	A	W	9-2	Lowe (5-3)	Conrad (2)	16-18	T-4	-4 ½
35	5/14	ARZ	H	W	6-5	Wagner (2-0)	McCann (3), McLouth (3)	17-18	5	-4 ½
36	5/15	ARZ	H	L	1-11	Hanson (3-3)	--	17-19	5	-5 ½
37	5/16	ARZ	H	W	13-1	Hudson (4-1)	Prado 2 (4), Glaus (5), Hinske (1)	18-19	4	-5 ½
38	5/17	NYM	H	L	2-3	Lowe (5-4)	Hinske (2)	18-20	5	-6 ½
39	5/18	NYM	H	W	3-2	Wagner (3-0)	Glaus (6)	19-20	4	-5 ½
40	5/19	CIN	H	W	5-4	Wagner (4-0)	McCann (4)	20-20	4	-4 ½
41	5/20	CIN	H	W	10-9	Kimbrel (1-0)	Conrad (3)	21-20	3	-4 ½
42	5/21	PIT	A	W	7-0	Hudson (5-1)	Heyward (9), McCann (5)	22-20	2	-4 ½
43	5/22	PIT	A	W	4-2	Lowe (6-4)	Cabrera (1), Hinske (3)	23-20	2	-3 ½
44	5/23	PIT	A	L	2-3 (10)	Saito (0-2)	Hinske (4)	23-21	2	-3 ½
45	5/25	FLA	A	L	4-6	Kawakami (0-7)	--	23-22	3	-3 ½
46	5/26	FLA	A	W	7-3	Hanson (4-3)	--	24-22	2	-2 ½
47	5/27	FLA	A	W	8-3	Moylan (2-0)	--	25-22	2	-1 ½
48	5/28	PIT	H	W	7-3	Lowe (7-4)	--	26-22	2	-1 ½
49	5/29	PIT	H	W	6-3	Medlen (2-1)	Heyward (10)	27-22	2	-1 ½
50	5/30	PIT	H	W	5-2	Saito (1-2)	Glaus (7)	28-22	2	-1/2
51	5/31	PHI	H	W	9-3	Hanson (5-3)	Jones (3), Glaus (8)	29-22	1	+1/2
52	6/1	PHI	H	W	7-3	Hudson (6-1)	Glaus (9)	30-22	1	+1 ½

GAME	DATE	OPP	H/A	W-L	SCORE	W/L PITCHER	ATL HRs	REC	POS	GB
53	6/2	PHI	H	W	2-1	Lowe (8-4)	--	31-22	1	+2 ½
54	6/3	LAD	A	W	4-3	Medlen (3-1)	Glaus (10)	32-22	1	+3
55	6/4	LAD	A	L	4-5	Kawakami (0-8)	--	32-23	1	+2
56	6/5	LAD	A	W	9-3	Hanson (6-3)	Glaus (11)	33-23	1	+2
57	6/6	LAD	A	L	4-5 (10)	Chavez (0-1)	Prado (5), McCann (6)	33-24	1	+2
58	6/7	ARZ	A	L	4-7	Lowe (8-5)	--	33-25	1	+2
59	6/8	ARZ	A	W	7-5	Venters (1-0)	--	34-25	1	+2
60	6/9	ARZ	A	L	1-2	Moylan (2-1)	--	34-26	1	+1 ½
61	6/10	ARZ	A	W	11-7	Moylan (3-1)	--	35-26	1	+2 ½
62	6/11	MIN	A	L	1-2	Hudson (6-2)	--	35-27	1	+1 ½
63	6/12	MIN	A	W	3-2	Venters (2-0)	Cabrera (2)	36-27	1	+1 ½
64	6/13	MIN	A	W	7-3	Medlen (4-1)	Prado (6), Glaus 2 (13)	37-27	1	+1 ½
65	6/15	TAM	H	L	4-10	Kawakami (0-9)	Jones (4)	37-28	1	+1/2
66	6/16	TAM	H	W	6-2	Hanson (7-3)	Hinske (5)	38-28	1	+1/2
67	6/17	TAM	H	W	3-1	Hudson (7-2)	Heyward (12)	39-28	1	+1/2
68	6/18	KC	H	W	6-4	Lowe (9-5)	--	40-28	1	+1/2
69	6/19	KC	H	W	5-4	Wagner (5-0)	McCann (7), Glaus (14)	41-28	1	+1 ½
70	6/20	KC	H	W	8-5	Kimbrel (2-0)	--	42-28	1	+2 ½
71	6/22	CWS	A	L	6-9	Hanson (7-4)	Prado (7), McCann (8)	42-29	1	+1 ½
72	6/23	CWS	A	L	2-4	Hudson (7-3)	--	42-30	1	+1/2
73	6/24	CWS	A	L	0-2	Saito (1-3)	--	42-31	1	+1/2
74	6/25	DET	H	W	3-1	Medlen (5-1)	McCann (9), Conrad (4)	43-31	1	+1/2
75	6/26	DET	H	W	4-3	Kawakami (1-9)	Jones (5)	44-31	1	+1 ½
76	6/27	DET	H	L	4-10	Hanson (7-5)	--	44-32	1	+1/2
77	6/28	WAS	H	W	5-0	Hudson (8-3)	--	45-32	1	+1 ½
78	6/29	WAS	H	L	2-7	Lowe (9-6)	--	45-33	1	+1 ½
79	6/30	WAS	H	W	4-1	Jurrjens (1-3)	--	46-33	1	+1 ½
80	7/2	FLA	H	W	4-3 (11)	Venters (3-0)	--	47-33	1	+2
81	7/3	FLA	H	W	4-1	Hanson (8-5)	--	48-33	1	+3
82	7/4	FLA	H	L	2-3	Hudson (8-4)	McCann (10)	48-34	1	+2
83	7/5	PHI	A	L	1-3	Lowe (9-7)	Jones (6)	48-35	1	+2
84	7/6	PHI	A	W	6-3 (11)	Chavez (1-1)	Prado (8), Hinske (6)	49-35	1	+2
85	7/7	PHI	A	W	7-5	Medlen (6-1)	Prado 2 (10), Diaz (1)	50-35	1	+3
86	7/9	NYM	A	W	4-2	O'Flaherty (3-1)	Cabrera (3), Infante (2)	51-35	1	+4
87	7/10	NYM	A	W	4-0	Hudson (9-4)	--	52-35	1	+5
88	7/11	NYM	A	L	0-3	Lowe (9-8)	--	52-36	1	+4
89	7/15	MIL	H	W	2-1	Jurrjens (2-3)	Prado (11), Jones (7)	53-36	1	+5
90	7/16	MIL	H	L	3-9	Hanson (8-6)	--	53-37	1	+5
91	7/17	MIL	H	L	3-6	Hudson (9-5)	Diaz (2), Hinske (7)	53-38	1	+4 ½
92	7/18	MIL	H	W	11-6	Lowe (10-8)	McCann (11), Diaz (3)	54-38	1	+5
93	7/20	SD	H	W	4-1	Jurrjens (3-3)	Diaz (4)	55-38	1	+6 ½
94	7/21	SD	H	L	4-6 (12)	Medlen (6-2)	McCann (12)	55-39	1	+6 ½
95	7/22	SD	H	W	8-0	Hudson (10-5)	--	56-39	1	+7
96	7/23	FLA	A	L	6-7	Wagner (5-1)	Prado (12), McCann (13)	56-40	1	+6
97	7/24	FLA	A	W	10-5	Chavez (2-1)	Prado (13), Conrad (5)	57-40	1	+6
98	7/25	FLA	A	L	4-5 (11)	Chavez (2-2)	Hinske (8)	57-41	1	+5
99	7/27	WAS	A	L	0-3	Hanson (8-7)	--	57-42	1	+3 ½
100	7/28	WAS	A	W	1-3	Hudson (11-5)	--	58-42	1	+3 ½
101	7/29	WAS	A	L	3-5	Lowe (10-9)	Diaz (5)	58-43	1	+2 ½
102	7/30	CIN	A	W	6-4 (10)	Chavez (3-2)	McCann (14)	59-43	1	+3 ½
103	7/31	CIN	A	L	2-5	Jurrjens (3-4)	--	59-44	1	+3 ½
104	8/1	CIN	A	L	1-2	Hanson (8-8)	Gonzalez (18)	59-45	1	+2 ½
105	8/2	NYM	H	W	4-1	Hudson (12-5)	Jones (8)	60-45	1	+3
106	8/3	NYM	H	L	2-3	Wagner (5-2)	--	60-46	1	+2
107	8/4	NYM	H	W	8-3	Dunn (1-0)	Jones (9), McCann (15), Cabrera (4)	61-46	1	+2

GAME	DATE	OPP	H/A	W-L	SCORE	W/L PITCHER	ATL HRs	REC	POS	GB
108	8/5	SF	H	W	3-2	Jurrjens (4-4)	Gonzalez (19), Hinske (9)	62-46	1	+2
109	8/6	SF	H	L	2-3 (11)	Moylan (3-2)	Gonzalez (20), Jones (10)	62-47	1	+1
110	8/7	SF	H	W	3-0	Hudson (13-5)	--	63-47	1	+2
111	8/8	SF	H	W	6-3	Lowe (11-9)	Ross (1), Infante (3)	64-47	1	+2
112	8/9	HOU	A	L	4-10	Farnsworth (3-1)	Heyward (12), McCann (16)	64-48	1	+1 1/2
113	8/10	HOU	A	W	4-2	Venters (4-0)	Conrad (6), Glaus (15)	65-48	1	+2 1/2
114	8/11	HOU	A	W	8-2 (10)	Wagner (6-2)	McCann (17)	66-48	1	+2 1/2
115	8/13	LAD	H	W	1-0	Hudson (14-5)	Conrad (7)	67-48	1	+3
116	8/14	LAD	H	L	1-2	Lowe (11-10)	--	67-49	1	+2
117	8/15	LAD	H	W	13-1	Jurrjens (5-4)	Glaus (16)	68-49	1	+2
118	8/16	LAD	H	W	4-3	Moylan (4-2)	--	69-49	1	+2 1/2
119	8/17	WAS	H	W	10-2	Minor (1-0)	Hernandez (1)	70-49	1	+2 1/2
120	8/18	WAS	H	W	3-2	Wagner (7-2)	--	71-49	1	+2 1/2
121	8/19	WAS	H	L	2-6	Lowe (11-11)	--	71-50	1	+2 1/2
122	8/20	CHC	A	W	5-3	Moylan (5-2)	Infante (4)	72-50	1	+2 1/2
123	8/21	CHC	A	L	4-5	Hanson (8-9)	--	72-51	1	+2 1/2
124	8/22	CHC	A	W	16-5	Minor (2-0)	Infante 2 (6), Heyward 2 (14)	73-51	1	+2 1/2
125	8/23	COL	A	L	4-5	Venters (4-1)	Prado (14), Ankiel (5)	73-52	1	+2 1/2
126	8/24	COL	A	L	2-5	Lowe (11-12)	Gonzalez (21)	73-53	1	+2 1/2
127	8/25	COL	A	L	10-12	Venters (4-2)	Infante (7)	73-54	1	+2 1/2
128	8/27	FLA	H	L	1-7	Hanson (8-10)	Heyward (15)	73-55	1	+2
129	8/28	FLA	H	W	12-3	Hudson (15-5)	Diaz (6), Hinske (10), Prado (15)	74-55	1	+2
130	8/29	FLA	H	W	7-6	Saito (2-3)	Diaz (7), McCann (18)	75-55	1	+2
131	8/30	NYM	H	W	9-3	Jurrjens (6-4)	Heyward (16), McCann (19)	76-55	1	+3
132	8/31	NYM	H	W	9-2	Minor (3-0)	Ross (2)	77-55	1	+3
133	9/1	NYM	H	W	4-1	Hanson (9-10)	--	78-55	1	+3
134	9/2	NYM	H	L	2-4	Hudson (15-6)	McCann (20)	78-56	1	+2
135	9/3	FLA	A	L	1-6	Kawakami (1-10)	--	78-57	1	+1
136	9/4	FLA	A	W	2-0	Jurrjens (7-4)	--	79-57	1	+1
137	9/5	FLA	A	L	6-7 (10)	O'Flaherty (3-2)	--	79-58	1	+1
138	9/6	PIT	A	L	1-3	Hanson (9-11)	--	79-59	1	+1
139	9/7	PIT	A	L	0-5	Hudson (15-7)	--	79-60	2	-1/2
140	9/8	PIT	A	W	9-3	Lowe (12-12)	--	80-60-	2	-1/2
141	9/9	STL	H	L	4-11	Jurrjens (7-5)	Lee (17)	80-61	2	-1
142	9/10	STL	H	W	8-6	Moylan (6-2)	McLouth (4)	81-61	2	-1
143	9/11	STL	H	W	6-3 (12)	Kimbrel (3-0)	Heyward (17), Gonzalez (22)	82-61	T-1	--
144	9/12	STL	H	L	3-7	Hudson (15-8)	McLouth (5)	82-62	2	-1
145	9/13	WAS	H	W	4-0	Lowe (13-12)	--	83-62	2	-1
146	9/14	WAS	H	L	0-6	Jurrjens (7-6)	--	83-63	2	-2
147	9/15	WAS	H	L	2-4	Minor (3-1)	--	83-64	2	-3
148	9/17	NYM	A	W	6-4	Hanson (10-11)	Heyward (18)	84-64	2	-3
149	9/18	NYM	A	W	4-2	Hudson (16-8)	McLouth (6)	85-64	2	-3
150	9/19	NYM	A	W	6-3	Lowe (14-12)	Lee (18)	86-64	2	-3
151	9/20	PHI	A	L	1-3	Beachy (0-1)	--	86-65	2	-4
152	9/21	PHI	A	L	3-5	Minor (3-2)	Freeman (1)	86-66	2	-5
153	9/22	PHI	A	L	0-1	Venters (4-3)	--	86-67	2	-6
154	9/24	WAS	A	L	3-8	Hudson (16-)	Infante (8)	86-68	2	-7
155	9/25	WAS	A	W	5-0	Lowe (15-12)	Gonzalez (23)	87-68	2	-6
156	9/26	WAS	A	L	2-4	Farnsworth (3-2)	Ankiel (6)	87-69	2	-6
157	9/27	FLA	H	W	2-1 (11)	Dunn (2-0)	McCann (21)	88-69	2	-6
158	9/28	FLA	H	W	3-2	Kimbrel (4-0)	Hinske (11)	89-69	2	-5
159	9/29	FLA	H	W	5-1	Lowe (16-12)	Conrad (8)	90-69	2	-5
160	10/1	PHI	H	L	5-11	Beachy (0-2)	--	90-70	2	-6
161	10/2	PHI	H	L	0-7	Venters (4-4)	--	90-71	2	-7
162	10/3	PHI	H	W	8-7	Hudson (17-9)	Lee (19)	91-71	2	-6



McMichael, now working with the Braves in alumni relations, saved 19 games for Atlanta as a rookie in 1993 and 21 more the next season.



MAKING A PITCH

GREG MCMICHAEL RETURNS TO HELP BUILD TEAM'S NEW ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

BY BRIAN KNAPP

GREG MCMICHAEL bucked the timeless adage. He did go home again.

In August, McMichael became a senior advisor for alumni relations with the Braves, rejoining the organization that brought him to the major leagues as an untested 26-year-old relief pitcher in April 1993.

"I approached them about seven months ago and talked to them about some of the ideas I had," McMichael said. "They did their due diligence on it, trying to figure out how it all would work, and they hired me."

McMichael, who turns 44 in December, fills a specific need for the franchise and plans to help connect the dots from the past to the present.

"For a long time, [team president] John Schuerholz has wanted to formalize an alumni association with the Braves," he said. "We currently have close to 50 alumni here in Atlanta. I'm trying to create some specific lines of communication that allow alumni to communicate with each other a little better and get them more involved with what's going on at the stadium during the season."

McMichael was actively involved in the organization's emotional salute to Bobby Cox on the next-to-last day of the regular season. Players who populated rosters all the way back to 1978 - Cox's first season in his first term as Braves manager - convened at Turner Field to honor an icon in Atlanta professional sports history.

The next order of business for McMichael revolves around organizing the first Atlanta Braves Fantasy Camp (braves.com/fan-

[tasycamp](http://braves.com/fan-tasycamp)) Jan. 25-30 at ESPN's Wild World of Sports in Kissimmee, Fla. There, enthusiasts, ages 25 and up, can simulate life in a major league spring training camp for five days. Sid Bream, Otis Nixon, Steve Avery, Greg Olson and Pete Smith are among the former players already committed to the camp. Packages start at \$3,999.

McMichael has embraced his new role with the Braves.

"It's been a lot of fun," he said. "I've been meeting with the Braves and formulating a game plan for how we're going to tackle some of these issues."

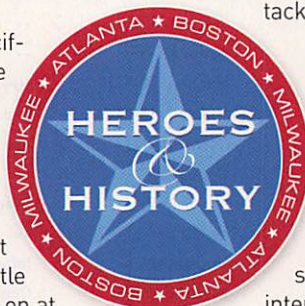
McMichael returned to the franchise after he closed Hardball Warehouse, the baseball training facility he opened in the Atlanta suburb of Suwanee after his retirement in 2000.

"I owned my own business for the last 10 years," he said. "After a while, it kind of wore me down. I didn't like having to be 10 different things in a company. We just shut it down. It was just a personal decision. Over the last couple of years, it just wasn't what I intended it to be."

Without a clear path before him, he turned to the Braves.

"I was trying to figure out what I could do, what I wanted to do, and I just felt like getting back with the organization, getting back involved with baseball and working with something I'm passionate about," McMichael said. "It was appealing to me, number one, because the Braves are a first-class organization. I still know a lot of people there."

"I knew they could make some small changes that would really



help their brand as far as alumni go, and the alumni would be drawn back more to the organization, which would in turn help the Braves," he added. "I just saw a situation I felt could be a lot better, and I felt like I was the one to help them do that."

It was not the first time he answered the bell for the Braves. McMichael spent five of his eight major league seasons (1993-96, 2000) in an Atlanta uniform, appearing in 280 games and compiling an 18-14 record with 44 saves and a 2.96 ERA. He burst on the scene in 1993 when he appeared in a career-high 74 games, recording 19 saves – most of them in the heat of a memorable pennant race with the San Francisco Giants – for a team that won 104 games, 54 of them after the All-Star break. The 6-foot-3 righthander saved wins 101, 102 and 104, helping the Braves eliminate the Giants on the final day of the season.

McMichael, who saved only five games in 140 minor league appearances, finished second in the National League Rookie of the Year voting behind Mike Piazza. It was quite an accomplishment for someone who was released by Cleveland in the spring of 1991, three years after the Indians drafted him in the seventh round out of the University of Tennessee. He saved a career-high 21 games in 1994, fifth in the NL.

The Knoxville, Tenn., native signed with the Braves as a free agent two weeks after being released by Cleveland and went on to appear in two World Series with Atlanta (1995-96) before a November 1996 trade to the Mets in exchange for Paul Byrd. He returned to the Braves briefly in 2000 before a shoulder injury and subsequent surgery ended his career at the age of 33.

Life after baseball has provided a mixture of triumph and tragedy. In 2005, McMichael and his wife of 22 years, Jennifer, lost a son, Quinn, to premature birth.

"He lived for about an hour and a half," McMichael said. "My wife had gotten sick, and it forced premature labor. There really wasn't anything they could do. He was too young. I think he was at 26 weeks, 27 weeks, something like that. When she gave birth, he was just a perfect little baby. We held him for an hour and a half, and that was it."

The event forced the McMichaels and their surviving four children to turn to their faith for strength.

"It was probably the most painful thing we've ever gone through," McMichael said.

In an eight-year big league career with four teams, McMichael was 31-29 with 53 saves and a 3.25 ERA.

COLLECTORS EYEING EMERGING TALENT

WITH A NUMBER of top prospects either in Atlanta or likely to join the team in the near future, the Braves provide baseball card collectors with plenty of interesting selections.

Minor (R) was named one of Topps' 10 Red Hot Rookie Redemption cards in September. Topps includes redemption cards in their 2010 Baseball Series 2, which can get redeemed for any of 10 Red Hot Rookies. Minor became the No. 9 selection after his major league career got off to a strong start in August. The young left-hander was the only Brave chosen for this series.

Topps also had a Finest Baseball Rookie Redemption set this season, and made Jason Heyward their No. 1 card.



"This is an exciting time to be a Braves fan in general, but as a collector, it is great to see the farm producing so much talent," said Michael Peters, a collector from Canton, Ga. "I have in the last couple seasons picked up quite a bit of stuff for my collection of Tommy Hanson, Kris Medlen, Jason Heyward, Craig Kimbrel, Jonny Venters, Mike Minor, Julio Teheran, Randall Delgado, and the list just goes on."

Topps also announced details of the new 2010 Bowman Sterling Baseball set due out in December. It will feature four different types of Heyward cards. In addition to his regular card, the set will have a nearly identical autographed version. Bowman Sterling will have "Dual Relic" cards as well, which have small pieces of two different players' game-used jerseys. Heyward has one such card with Marlins outfielder Mike Stanton and another with Nationals rookie sensation Stephen Strasburg.

This Bowman Sterling set has four different Refractor cards or "parallels" for each of the aforementioned cards. Their scarcity should make them highly sought after. A total of 99 serial-numbered Regular Refractors will get printed for each of the four Heyward cards, as well as 50 Gold Refractors, 25 Black Refractors, and just one Red Refractor.

"Bowman Sterling is a pricier, more limited product, so they should be valuable," said Chris Olds, editor for Beckett Baseball and Beckett Graded Card Investor. "But it isn't always as well-received in terms of the secondary market compared to, say, the rarest Bowman Chromes."

Bowman Sterling will also have cards for Braves prospects such as Arodys Vizcaino, J.J. Hoover, Matt Lipka, Chris Masters and Brett Oberholtzer. Olds said these players may not have all four of the different Refractors like Heyward does.

Peters always looks forward to adding new rookie cards to his Braves collection, and hopes to see Topps include lefty reliever Venters in some of this year's products.

"If not, they are missing out on including one of the best rookies of the 2010 season, in my opinion," said Peters.

Fans that prefer cards with an old-school look may like the Tri-Star Obak line. It has several different categories and includes players from the pre-1900s in its 2010 baseball set, as well as current minor league prospects.

Dale Murphy has one of the five "History's Greatest Players" cards. Former Braves Bob Horner and Jeff Burroughs are among six "#1 Overall Draft Picks" in the set. Heyward and Kimbrel have "Future Stars" cards. Heyward has another from a group of "Minor League Players of the Year."

ALUMNI NOTES



Phil Niekro (RHP, 1964-83, '87) will serve as the master of ceremonies Nov. 13 at the second annual "Knuckle Ball...A Pitch for Life" at Minute Maid Park in Houston. The event supports the **Joe Niekro** (RHP, 1973-74) Foundation, formed after he died from a brain aneurysm in the fall of 2006. Joe's daughter, Natalie, established the foundation, committed to the funding of aneurysm research and treatment. Last year's Knuckle Ball raised over \$450,000. The black-tie evening will include casino gaming, a formal dinner, and auction and the opportunity to mingle with some of baseball's greatest legends. For more information and to sign up for the event, visit joeniekrofoundation.com.

Mike Remlinger (LHP, 199-2002, '06) is auctioning a rare and unusual item at schulteauctions.com. Remlinger, who was pitching for the Cubs in 2003 when Sammy Sosa was ejected after breaking a bat that was "corked" retrieved and kept the barrel of the bat. It will be up for auction through Oct. 31, and at press time, the bid had reached \$7,393. Remlinger, who thinks the bidding could reach \$15,000, was in the bullpen when the bat broke. He said he first offered the bat to Sosa but that the slugger did not follow up on his initial interest.

Stan Kasten resigned as president of the Washington Nationals Sept. 23. There was no reason given for his resignation. He remained on the job through the end of the season. Kasten, 58, was the Nationals' president since 2006 and was president of the Braves from 1987-2003.

Joe Torre (C/1B, 1960-68, Manager, 1982-84) decided to retire as manager of the Dodgers at the end of the season.

Clarence "Cito" Gaston (OF/1B, 1967, '75-78) retired as Toronto's manager after the season. The team honored him on Sept. 29 with a 35-minute ceremony that included a video message from his former Braves teammate **Hank Aaron**. Like Bobby Cox, he announced last year that this would be

his final season. He was 909-850 (.517) in two stints as manager and led the Blue Jays to consecutive World Series championships in 1992-93.

Bob Shaw (RHP, 1962-63) died Sept. 23 at age 77 in Jupiter, Fla. He helped the White Sox win the AL pennant in 1959 and then out-dueled Hall of Famer Sandy Koufax, 1-0, in Game 5 of the World Series before a record crowd of 92,706 at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum. He was an NL All-Star for the Braves in 1962 when he was 15-9 with a 2.80 ERA for Milwaukee.

The town of Ninety-Six, S.C., displayed artifacts from the career of native son **Bill Voiselle** (RHP, 1047-49) at the Depot on Sept. 25-26. Voiselle was nicknamed "Ninety-Six" and wore No. 96 on his jersey. Voiselle, who died in 2005, was an All-Star with the New York Giants in 1944 when he won 21 games and later was 28-28 with the Boston Braves. He also made one start and two appearances for the Braves in the 1948 World Series. Items displayed came from family collections. He also was honored with drawings and essays from elementary school students.

Al LaMacchia, a longtime baseball scout, died Sept. 15 in San Antonio, Tex., at age 89. Among the teams he worked for were the Milwaukee and Atlanta Braves, and he is credited with signing **Dale Murphy** (OF/C/1B, 1976-90).

The Yankees signed **Royce Ring** (LHP, 2007-08) to a major league contract Sept. 15.

Former major league first baseman Dave Bergman is assisting the **Joe Niekro** (RHP, 1973-74) Foundation by offering three days of fishing the Everglades and four nights in a Florida condo, with himself as host and guide, for \$7,500. Niekro was his former teammate, mentor and fishing buddy. Bergman said the fair market value of the trip is \$1,500 per person, and the other \$6,000 is a donation to the Joe Niekro Foundation and is tax deductible.

BIRTHDAYS

NOVEMBER

1 ST	CHICO RUIZ (59)
2 ND	GEORGE ESTOCK (86) RON REED (88) TOM PACIOREK (64) YUNEL ESCOBAR (28)
3 RD	GARRY HILL (64)
4 TH	TITO FRANCONA (77) CHRIS RESOP (28)
5 TH	CRAIG MCMURTRY (51)
6 TH	JAVY LOPEZ (40) BOB ADDIS (85) DON WENGERT (41) JUSTIN SPEIER (37) ADAM LAROCHE (31)
7 TH	CLARENCE JONES (69) RUSS SPRINGER (42) TRAVIS SMITH (38)
8 TH	DWIGHT SMITH (47) JEFF BLAUSER (45)
9 TH	BOB GIBSON (75) DION JAMES (48) CHUCK JAMES (29)
10 TH	GENE CONLEY (80) BILL SOUTHWORTH (65) ANDRES THOMAS (47) KEITH LOCKHART (46) MICAH BOWIE (36) ROBERTO HERNANDEZ (48)
11 TH	JODY DAVIS (54)
12 TH	GENE GARBER (63)
13 TH	DAN PETRY (52)
15 TH	NORMIE ROY (82) JACK SMITH (75) RICK LUECKEN (50) PEDRO BORBON (43) KEVIN GRAYBOSKI (37)
16 TH	FRANK BOLLING (79)
17 TH	DREW DENSON (45)
18 TH	DAN OSINSKI (77)
19 TH	AUBREY GATEWOOD (72) ELI MARRERO (37)
20 TH	GARY SHEFFIELD (42) JOE MORGAN (80) TED TURNER (72) JAY RITCHIE (74) HERMAN STARRETTE (72) DUANE THEISS (57) KEVIN LOMON (39) J.D. DREW (35) JO-JO REYES (26)
21 ST	MARK EICHHORN (50) BARBARO CANIZARES (31)
22 ND	WADE BLASINGAME (67) RICK MATULA (57) OSCAR VILLARREAL (29)
23 RD	FRANK TEPEDINO (63) BROOK JACOBY (51) AARON SMALL (39)
24 TH	DAMIAN MOSS (34)
25 TH	HORACIO RAMIREZ (31)
26 TH	MARK WHITEN (44) OCTAVIO DOTEI (37)
27 TH	JAY HOWELL (55)
28 TH	BOB WALK (54) KEN RAY (36) WALT WEISS (47) JOHN BURKETT (46) ADAM BERNERO (34)
30 TH	JUAN BERENGUER (56) STEVE SHIELDS (52) CRAIG WILSON (34)



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Richard Burg (770) 978-6297
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PRINTER

Publisher's Press

SUBSCRIBER SERVICES

McMillen Communications

BUSINESS OPERATIONS

Rob Calcutta

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Send address changes or corrections to:
ChopTalk, P.O. Box 81247, Conyers, Ga.
30013-9247 or call 1-877-655-CHOP
(2467) or visit braves.com/choptalk.

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DOING THE FREDI

THE BRAVES and their fans have taken a step back in time. For the immediate future - and hopefully for many years - they will be "doing the Fredi." In the mid-1960s, there was a popular dance craze prompted by the song "Do The Freddie" by Freddie and the Dreamers.

Can't you just see it now? The Braves start rolling behind Fredi Gonzalez, Turner Field comes alive with "Do The Freddie" on the PA system, and fans break out in a funky but very simple dance... in rhythm with the music, extend the left leg and left arm... then do the same with the right leg and right arm.

No need to move into the aisles - not until the post-season anyway. It can be done right at your seat. Let the music begin!

Hopefully, Fredi Gonzalez will bring a lot of sweet music to Turner Field, though not seeing No. 6 in the dugout is going to take a lot of getting used to.

It's not likely that the announcement that Gonzalez would replace Bobby Cox generated much excitement among Braves fans, but that's the nature of following a legend, the greatest manager in franchise history and a future Hall of Famer.

Nevertheless, there's no question that the Braves got their man, the candidate they identified and targeted for months, and a manager that seems well suited to carry on Cox's legacy, if that is possible.

Frank Wren says we will notice differences in the two men, but in all probability, we'll notice a lot of similarities, as well. Gonzalez has an easygoing demeanor that should sit well with the players, and in this era of baseball, that is something that's critical to keeping the ship on course.

It remains to be seen how he'll run a baseball game, but this much is for sure - he'll lose at least 60 games every season, and we'll all be second-guessing him... just as we did Cox for all those years... just as we would any manager. That's the nature of the game.

Don't underestimate the benefit of the Braves' ability to act quickly and smoothly to transfer power. They literally went right from the post-season into planning

for next season, without time to take a breath. Seldom do organizations - including several looking for managers right now - make such a smooth transition.

The real test of how "smooth" it is will come next season, but in the meantime, the organization acquitted itself very well, once again showing why it is so well regarded around baseball for its high degree of professionalism.

On Oct. 15, just four days after Cox's career ended with a 3-2 loss to San Francisco in Game 4 of the Division Series, Wren was able to gather Gonzalez and his new bench coach, Carlos Tosca, for an "orientation" that primarily involved discussing the players who would return next season. Right in the middle of that meeting was "retired" manager Bobby Cox giving his assessment of the team and each individual player. Seldom has any team been able to conduct such an efficient changing of the guard.

We would be remiss to move into a discussion of the new regime without also giving credit to Cox and his team for a very scintillating season.

I used to look down my nose at the "wild card" - even when that team won the World Series, most recently the 2004 Red Sox. I suppose 14 straight division titles will do that to you. But this year's wild card, the first in Braves history, felt pretty good. And if not for a crushing list of major injuries to frontline personnel, this wild card likely would have made more of a post-season impact.

Three one-run defeats in the Division Series were excruciating, to say the least, and we can't help but think how things might have been different if only Martin Prado and Billy Wagner were able to stay in one piece a little longer.

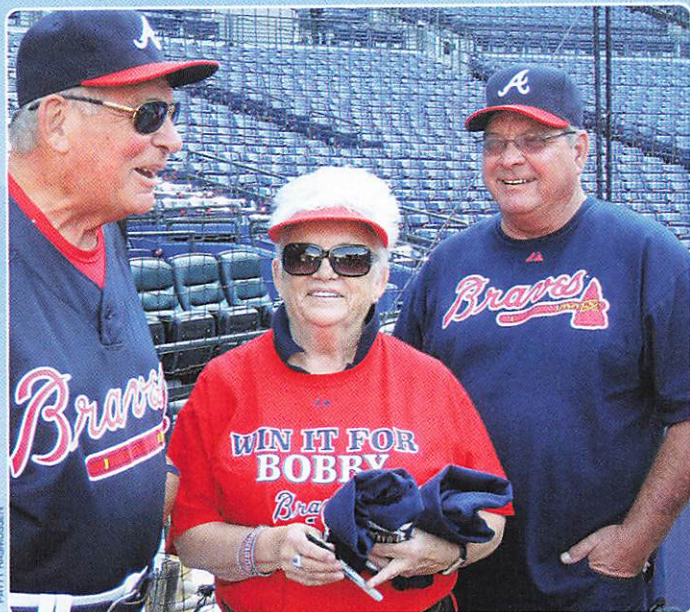
This team certainly had the spirit and intestinal fortitude of a champion, even if it didn't have the good health. It was a fitting team for Cox's last season.

This is a landmark for ChopTalk, the 200th issue since it was first launched in January 1994. This issue of ChopTalk was mailed Oct. 22. The December issue will be mailed Nov. 24.



BY PATTY RASMUSSEN

Bobby Cox had several family members visit from California late in the season, including his cousin, Sandra Ott and her husband, James Ott.



PATTY RASMUSSEN

FAMILY REUNION

BOBBY COX'S aunt, **Catherine Cox**, traveled from the manager's hometown, Selma, California, to attend the final two homestands of the regular season. Catherine was accompanied by her daughter and son-in-law, **Sandra** and **James Ott**, and sons **Mel** and **Stan Cox**. They attended the Marlins and Phillies series, took a tour of Turner Field, and enjoyed watching batting practice from the field. They were on hand for the Cox tribute and the final game of the regular season.



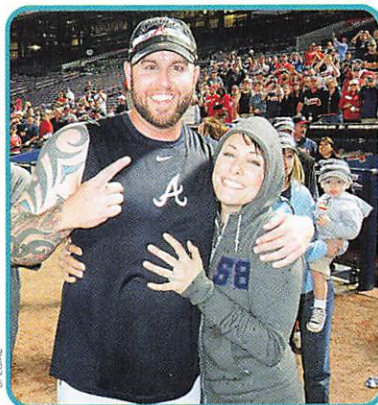
PETER MOYLAN proposed the last week of the season to girlfriend **Mandy Coupel**, who now sports a beautiful diamond engagement ring. No word yet on wedding plans...

Among the family members who made the trip to San Francisco for the Division Series on the Braves charter were **Bobby Cox's** wife, **Pam**, players' wives **Kim Hudson (Tim)**, **Carolyn Lowe (Derek)**, **Ashley McCann (Brian)**, and **Viviana Venters (Jonny)**, and coaches' wives **Lynn Cadahia (Chino)**, **Lynn Hubbard (Glenn)** and **Ronnie Snitker (Brian)**. Other family that attended the games in California were **Brian McCann's** parents, **Howie** and **Sherry**, and **David Ross's** wife, **Hyla**, and daughter, **Landri**...

The playoffs usually bring out some high-profile baseball fans, and the NLDS was no exception. In Atlanta, former U.S. President **Jimmy Carter** and his wife, **Rosalyn**, were in attendance for Game 3, and former team owner **Ted Turner** was in his customary seat near the dugout for Games 3 and 4. Actor **Danny Glover** was seated in the SunTrust section with former NBA star **Julius "Dr. J" Irving**, and actor **Jason Bateman** (*Arrested Development*) was also spotted in the stands. Bateman was in Atlanta

shooting a new movie...

Kim Hudson's father, **Harold Bruner**, caught a ball fouled off by **Jason Heyward** in the first inning of Game 3 at Turner Field...



Peter Moylan and his fiancée, Mandy Coupel, celebrate making the playoffs and getting engaged.

One of the pilots in the crew providing the T-38 jet flyover for the **Bobby Cox** tribute was LTC **Tim Mangan**, U.S. Air Force, brother of Turner Field head groundskeeper **Ed Mangan**...

The Braves wives hosted a baby shower for several players' wives on Oct. 3 in the Braves family room. **Ann Glauz (Troy)**, **Lory Ankiel (Rick)** and **Leslee Diaz (Matt)** are all expecting babies this off-season. It's the Diaz's third child but a first for the Glauses and Ankiels...

Chip Caray and his wife, **Susan**, were to make a trip to France without their four children after the season. The couple planned 10 days in France, Oct. 29 through Nov. 9, concentrating their visit in Paris, touring Notre Dame Cathedral and the Louvre Museum...

Matt and Leslee Diaz, son **Nathan (3)** and daughter **Anna (2)** remained in Atlanta for a couple of days after the season ended, then joined Leslee's family for an annual vacation in the mountains at Valley Cruses, North Carolina. Diaz



Ryan Klesko visits ChopTalk subscriber Donna Overstreet in her office in the Silicon Valley region of California to discuss business technology.

planned to fish with Nathan who was also looking forward to riding the legendary Tweetsie Railroad steam locomotive...

David and **Hyla Ross** closed on their newly built home near Tallahassee, Fla., during the season but still have to finish furnishing it. Ross plays in several charity golf tournaments in the off-season but otherwise stays close to home...

Brian and **Ashley McCann** are gearing up to host the Annual Rally Foundation Benefit Bash, Nov. 4, and Celebrity Softball Game, Nov. 5. The Bash will be held at The Foundry at Puritan Mill in Atlanta, and the softball game will be played at Georgia Tech's **Russ Chandler** Stadium. Honorary team managers for the game will be **Chipper Jones** and **Jack McKeon**, who managed the 2003 Florida Marlins to a World Championship. Tickets for the Bash went quickly, but tickets for the softball game are available at the gate, minimum \$10 donation for adults, \$5 for students, and free for children 10 years old and under. The game will feature a home run derby starting at 7 p.m., with the first pitch at 7:35. Go to rallyfoundation.org for more information...

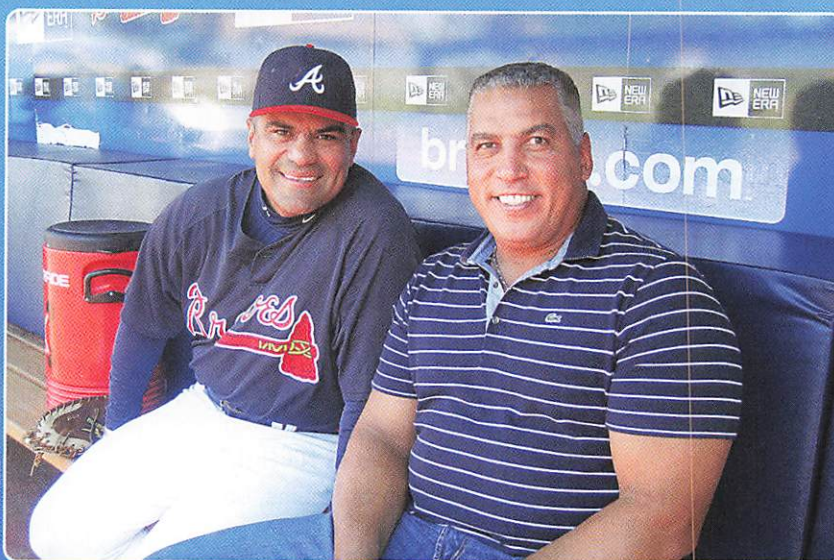
Former Braves and Falcons player **Brian Jordan** was one of 100 participants in the 2010 Principal Shadow Day, Oct. 7, sponsored by the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce. Jordan served as principal for the day at **Sarah R. Smith** Elementary School in the Buckhead section of Atlanta...

Even though he couldn't play down the stretch due to injury, **Takashi Saito** provided some comic relief by arriving at Turner Field each day during the final week of the regular season wearing traditional Japanese garb. **Brian McCann** heard that Saito had done something similar when he played in Los Angeles and asked him if he'd do the same for the Braves. In addition to carrying

a samurai sword, Saito wore a yukuta, a traditional lightweight summer kimono, and geta, the raised wooden shoes that are a cross between flip flops and clogs...

Ardent Braves fan and ChopTalk subscriber **Donna Overstreet** (Talkin' Chop, Oct. '10 CT) struck up a fast friendship with former Brave **Ryan Klesko** while attending the **Tom Glavine** Braves Hall of Fame luncheon in August. Klesko has several business interests in the Silicon Valley region of California where Donna lives and works. The two have since kept in touch, and on one of his recent visits to California,

Klesko dropped in to visit Donna at her office to talk business technology. "Ryan is so down to earth," she said. "He's definitely a businessman, excited about talking about Grand Slam mobile, his mobile management company. It was great! We talked about business and baseball." Klesko, who recently became involved in a Napa Valley winery, came bearing gifts, as well. He brought Donna a case and a magnum bottle of Pickmaster Meritage, a Napa Valley wine. Donna also braved the hostile territory at AT&T Park for Game 2 of the NLDS, wearing her **David Justice** Braves jersey, Braves cap, and carrying a red foam tomahawk. She also had her picture taken with two prominent Giants fans - California senator **Diane Feinstein** and San Francisco mayor **Gavin Newsome**.



PROWLING

THE "BIG CAT" - **Andres Galarraga** - came back to Turner Field to attend the **Bobby Cox** Tribute on Oct. 2, but also dropped by batting practice the day before to be able to spend more time talking to his former manager and visit with his friend and former teammate, bullpen coach **Eddie Perez**. Galarraga especially enjoyed walking through the clubhouse and shaking hands and exchanging hugs with the fellow Venezuelans on the Braves - **J.C.**

Boscan, Alex Gonzalez, Omar Infante and **Martin Prado**. Galarraga continues to make his home in West Palm Beach, Fla., and has taken up golf in his retirement. He said he was invited to 2010 Braves spring training but had to miss it due to a family conflict. He's hoping to serve as a guest instructor at spring training in 2011. Since his last bout with non-Hodgkins lymphoma in 2004, Galarraga's cancer has remained in remission.



UNCLE BOBBY

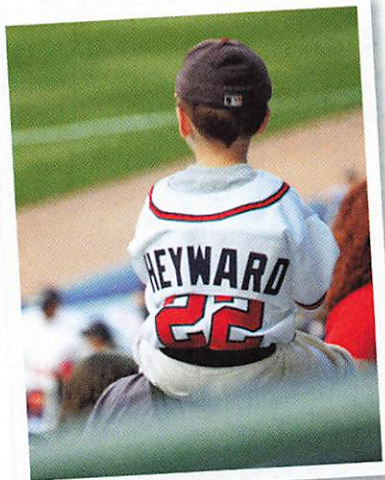
In 1977, I was fortunate to have the opportunity to attend the World Series games in Los Angeles. The Yankees were playing the Dodgers, and my cousin - Bobby Cox - was the first base coach for the Yankees. He made arrangements for me and my parents, along with his parents, to attend all the games in L.A. We stayed at the same hotel as the team and got to meet many of the players and get autographs. The Yankees won the Series, and I'll always remember the good time we had. Thank you very much, Bobby! I have been a Braves fan since Bobby became manager, and I'm also a fan of ChopTalk and have been a subscriber since 1994. It won't be the same once Bobby is not the manager, but the Braves will always be my team.

CINDY GREGORY
Clovis, Calif.

THE NEW GENERATION

I've always been a Braves fan and go to several games each season. On April 30, I took this photo at the Braves vs. Astros game. It was awesome to see the littlest Braves fans embracing Jason Heyward's rookie year! As always, I really enjoyed the game, especially since the Braves won!

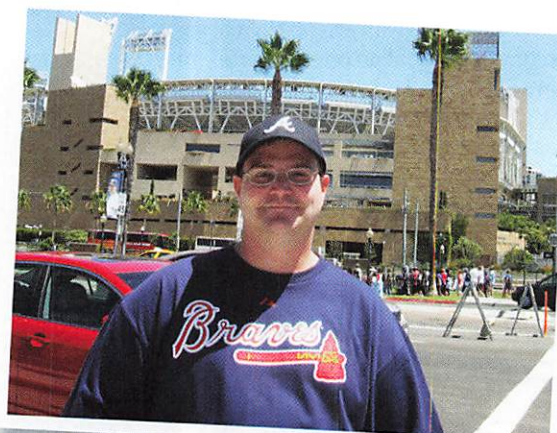
HEATHER NICHOLS
Warner Robins, Ga.



TRAVELIN' COUPLE

My husband, Bill (below), who may be the biggest Braves fan of all-time, introduced me to the love of the Braves. We attended a 3-hour rain delayed game in Atlanta on our honeymoon and decided to make a Braves series our annual anniversary trip. In the past few years, we have seen the Braves play in San Francisco, Washington, San Diego and L.A. We went to the Labor Day series in Pittsburgh this year. I would definitely say I married into a Braves Family, and have never looked back! Here's a picture from our trip to San Diego!

BILL & NICOLE HARVEY
Atlanta, Ga.



CHOPTALK AND THE ATLANTA BRAVES SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

IN THE DESERT

I've been a Braves fan since I was 6 years old, and now my sons are fans, too. Here's our entire family - me and my wife, Kayla, with our older son, Brayden, and younger son, Braxton - at a game in Phoenix when the Braves came to the desert to play the Diamondbacks. We'd love to be part of ChopTalk!

BRANDON GUIDROZ
Phoenix, Ariz.

THE CAT SEAT

I am a loyal Braves fan, and so are my two cats - Rambo and Skibo. They only watch the Braves. They even have their own stool to sit in front of the TV so they don't miss a play.

DOT TURNER
Soso, Miss.



SHARE YOUR BRAVES FEVER!

WRITE TO US

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WRITE THE BRAVES

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Atlanta, Ga. 30302

For the Braves players, Bobby Cox, the coaches, broadcasters, or members of the front office.

If you request a response, be sure to include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Never send anything of value that you want returned. This is no guarantee of a reply.

IT'S IN THE BOOK



something," he said. "The hard part was the stuff that came later. All the years managing in the minors, if you had a guy who didn't run a ball out, you took him out of the game. If I didn't do something, I would have lost the respect of 24 other guys."

The new manager doesn't plan to make any major changes in the Braves.

"I think it will be a great transition," Gonzalez said. "No one is going to come in here and do things just like Bobby, but I'm not coming in here to just change the culture. For me to come in, throw in a hand grenade and start from scratch is crazy. There's a lot of good stuff here. A lot of good baseball players here."

He's particularly excited about the young talent that just went through the playoff drive and played into the post-season.

"Kids pitching in significant games in September, pitching and playing in playoff games... It's great experience," he said. "You can't simulate that."

Returning to Atlanta to manage also brings Gonzalez's personal and professional life into closer proximity. Born in Cuba, Gonzalez moved to the U.S. when he was young, and he grew up in Miami. The Gonzalezes kept their home in the Atlanta suburb of Marietta when he went to manage in Florida, because the children were in or about to graduate from high school. Pam and the kids went back and forth during the season. Now daughter Gigi is a sophomore at Georgia Southern University, studying public relations, and their son Alex is a high school senior and a highly sought football recruit.

FREDI GONZALEZ'S MANAGERIAL RECORD

YEAR	CLUB (CLASS)	W-L	PCT	POS
1990	Miami (A)	10-10	.500	4th
1991	Miami (A)	63-67	.485	2nd/4th
1992	Erie (A)	40-37	.519	2nd
1993	High Desert(A)	85-52	.620	1st/1st
1994	Brevard County (A)	78-61	.561	1st/2nd
1995	Brevard County (A)	61-74	.452	4th/3rd
1996	Brevard County (A)	47-92	.338	6th/6th
1997	Portland (AA)	79-63	.556	1st
1998	Charlotte (AAA)	70-73	.490	3rd
2002	Richmond (AAA)	75-67	.528	2nd
2007	Florida (MLB)	71-91	.438	4th
2008	Florida (MLB)	84-77	.522	3rd
2009	Florida (MLB)	87-75	.537	2nd
2010	Florida (MLB)	34-36	.486	4th*
MINOR TOTALS		608-596	.505	
MAJOR TOTALS		276-279	.497	

*Through June 22

Gonzalez made the most of his family time and also watched some Braves minor league baseball during his four-month hiatus from the game.

"After I talked with John and Frank, I went to some minor league games," Gonzalez said. "I visited Rome, and it was like I'm always telling my son, you never know who's in the stands watching you. They didn't know I was watching them play. Those guys had no idea that on October 12 I would be the manager of the Braves."

The next few months will be spent reac-

quainting himself with the Braves organization.

"There's no baseball going on, but there's stuff going on, organizational meetings, Instructional League," said Gonzalez. "I need to learn about the minor leaguers. I'm looking forward to going to Instructional League to get to know some of those players."

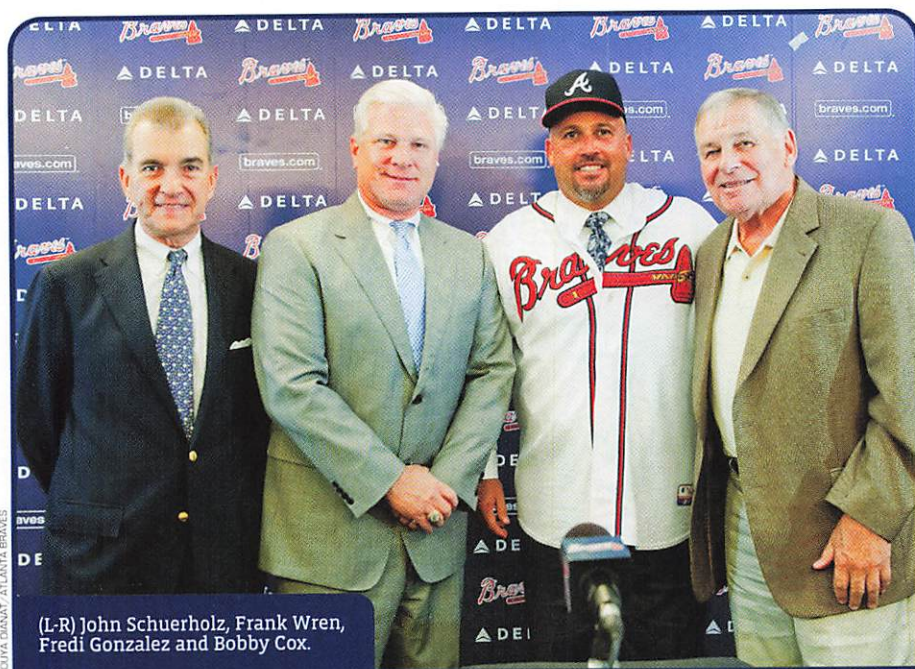
As for following in the footsteps of a managerial legend, Gonzalez is philosophical.

"I don't feel any added pressure," he said. "Somebody has to follow Bobby, and I'm honored they asked me to do it. It is a good fit."

Gonzalez is the Braves' 16th manager since moving to Atlanta in 1966. He will wear uniform No. 33.

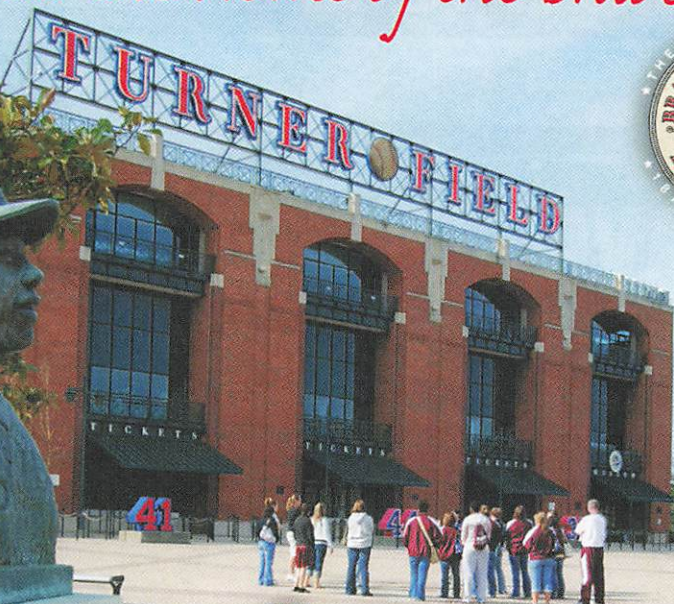
Following a six-year (1982-87) playing career in the Yankees' farm system, Gonzalez began his coaching career in 1990, when he took over as manager of the unaffiliated Miami Miracle (A) of the Florida State League with 20 games remaining on their schedule. He continued his post as manager of the Miracle in 1991, then moved to the Marlins organization in 1992, when he was named the first minor league manager in Marlins franchise history. He led the 1992 Erie (A) club to a 40-37 record en route to the New York-Penn League championship series.

Gonzalez managed for seven seasons in the Marlins organization, from 1992 to 1998, and served as third base coach at the major league level from 1999 to 2001. He was named the Marlins' manager on Oct. 3, 2006, replacing Joe Girardi.



(L-R) John Schuerholz, Frank Wren, Fredi Gonzalez and Bobby Cox.

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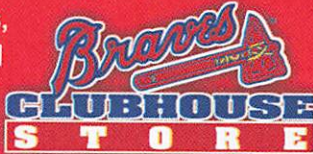
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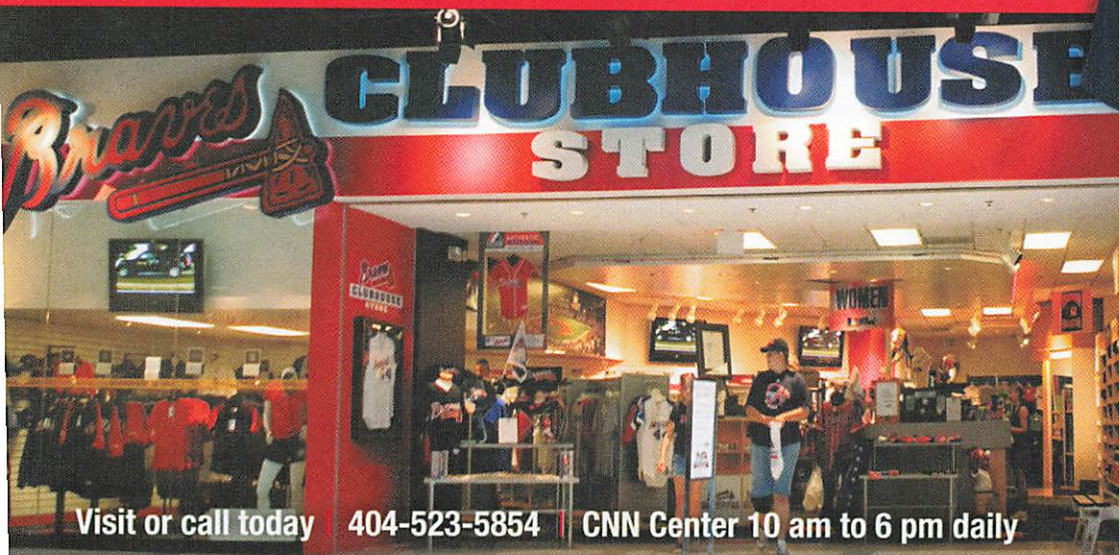
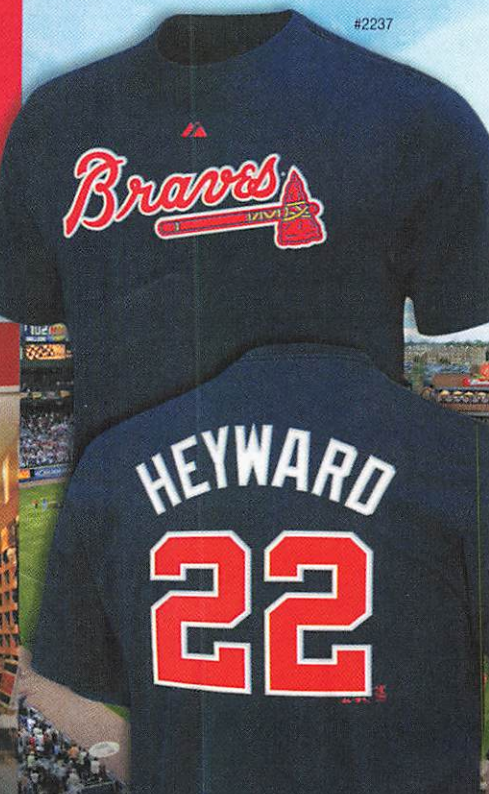
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2011 SEASON SCHEDULE

MARCH/APRIL

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		MIN 7:00	MIN 12:00	WAS		WAS
3 WAS	4 MIL	5 MIL	6 MIL	7 MIL	8 PHI 7:30	9 PHI 7:00
10 PHI 1:30	11	12 FLA 7:00	13 FLA 7:00	14 FLA 7:00	15 NYM 7:30	16 NYM 7:00
17 NYM 1:30	18 LAD	19 LAD	20 LAD	21 LAD	22 SF	23 SF
24 SF	25 SD	26 SD	27 SD	28	29 STL 7:30	30 STL 7:00

MAY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1 STL 1:30	2 MIL	3 MIL	4 MIL	5 MIL	6 PHI	7 PHI
8 PHI	9	10 WAS 7:00	11 WAS 7:00	12 WAS 7:00	13 PHI 7:30	14 PHI 7:00
15 PHI 1:30	16 HOU 7:00	17 HOU 1:00	18 ARZ	19 ARZ	20 LAA	21 LAA
22 LAA	23	24 PIT	25 PIT	26	27 CIN 7:30	28 CIN 7:00
29 CIN 1:30	30 SD	31 SD				

JUNE

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1 SD 7:00			NYM	NYM
5 NYM	6	7 FLA	8 FLA	9 FLA	10 HOU	11 HOU
12 HOU	13 HOU	14 NYM	15 NYM	16 NYM	17 TEX	18 TEX
19 TEX	20 TOR	21 TOR	22 TOR	23	24 SD	25 SD
26 SD	27 SEA	28 SEA	29 SEA	30		

JULY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1 BAL 7:30	2 BAL
3 BAL	4 COL	5 COL	6 COL	7 COL	8 PHI	9 PHI
10 PHI	11	12	13	14	15 WAS 7:30	16 WAS 7:00
17 WAS	18 COL	19 COL	20 COL	21 COL	22 CIN	23 CIN
24 CIN	25 PIT	26 PIT	27 PIT	28 PIT	29 FLA	30 FLA
31 FLA						

AUGUST

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1 WAS	2 WAS	3 WAS	4	5 NYM	6 NYM
7 NYM	8 FLA	9 FLA	10 FLA	11	12 CHC 7:30	13 CHC 7:00
14 CHC	15 SF	16 SF	17 SF	18 SF	19 ARZ 7:00	20 ARZ 7:00
21 ARZ 1:30	22 CHC	23 CHC	24 CHC	25 CHC	26 NYM	27 NYM
28 NYM	29	30 WAS 7:00	31 WAS 7:00			

SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1 WAS 7:00	2 LAD 7:30	3 LAD 7:00
4 LAD	5 PHI	6 PHI	7 PHI	8	9 STL	10 STL
11 STL	12 FLA	13 FLA	14 FLA	15	16 NYM	17 NYM
18 NYM	19 FLA	20 FLA	21 FLA	22	23 WAS	24 WAS
25 WAS	26 PHI	27 PHI	28 PHI	29	30	

☐ Home Game

*All times are Eastern and subject to change.
Schedule subject to change.

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